FBIS DAILY REPORT

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CONTADORA TO DRAFT FINAL DOCUMENT IN SPAIN

PA160203 Paris AFP in Spanish 1215 GMT 15 Oct 84

[Text] Madrid, 15 Oct (AFP) -- The foreign ministers of the Contadora Group (Colombia, Venezuela, Panama, and Mexico) will meet here Wednesday to prepare the final document for peace in Central America, following a study of the objections submitted by nations of the region.

Besides Nicaragua, the only Central American country which accepted the document without modifications, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, and Guatemala have already submitted their proposed modifications, the term for which expired today. The Contadora ministers will present the final document to the countries who must sign it in the coming weeks.

The peace document, made public on 7 September, and the objections to it will be the main issue of the foreign ministers' meeting to be held at the Viana Palace (seat of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs). The meeting will be attended by Ministers Augusto Ramirez Ocampo (Colombia), Isidro Morales Paul (Venezuela), Oyden Ortega Duran (former Panamanian foreign minister representing the new foreign minister Fernando Cardoza), and Bernardo Sepulveda (Mexico).

The foreign ministers, who tonight will be guests of their Spanish colleague, Fernando Moran, will receive the Prince of Asturias Prize granted this year to the Contadora Group from King Juan Carlos of Spain in Oviedo (Asturias) on Tuesday. On Wednesday, the president of the Spanish Government, Felipe Gonzalez, will host a dinner in their honor at Moncloa Palace.

Some of the main aspects of the peace document are a reduction of arms, troops, and foreign advisers in Central America; a ban on establishing foreign military bases; and the ceasing of support to movements trying to overthrow other governments.

Most of the objections made by the Central American nations refer basically to the verification and control systems for these aspects, according to diplomatic sources from the region. In statements here to the Madrid paper EL PAIS, the Mexican foreign minister, Bernardo Sepulveda, maintained that these objections, "although important, are not substantial." He described the fact that most of the objections were made after Nicaragua announced its decision to sign the document without modifications as "surprising."

"I hope that the issue will be solved shortly," Sepulveda added. However, he says it is improbable that the document will be signed (by the Central American countries) in October because of the objections. The Mexican foreign minister is expected to arrive in Madrid today.

Colombian Foreign Minister Ramirez Ocampo, who has been in Madrid since Sunday, affirmed here that the timetable for disarmament, the removal of foreign advisers, and the dismantling of military bases are the issues that raise most doubts in the Central American countries. "The doubts result from the following," the Colombian official said," if such demands will be made simultaneously or conform to a strict schedule."

In the opinion of Venezuelan Minister Morales Paul, who has also been in Madrid since Sunday, the observations he has received on the peace document are "improvements" which can make the document a "more operational and reliable" instrument.

The Contadora foreign ministers' presence in Spain will coincide with that of Arturo Cruz, frustrated opposition candidate in Nicaragua, who "will talk to someone" from the Spanish Foreign Ministry, according to diplomatic sources. In addition, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto is expected in Barcelona on Thursday on a private visit.

SELA'S ALEGRETT CALLS FOR ECONOMIC STRATEGIES

FL161826 Bridgetown CANA in English 1803 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Caracas, Oct 16, CANA -- Permanent Secretary of the Latin American System (SELA) Sebastian Alegrett has called for greater links between the Caribbean Community (Caricom) and Latin American countries in order to strengthen the negotiating power of both sub-regions in overcoming their shared economic woes.

Speaking at the opening of a two-week conference here, Alegrett suggested that regional governments consider the advisability of convening a foreign trade conference that would define a regional commerical strategy with the rest of the world. The strategy would include concerted actions against growing protectionism by developed countries, SELA officials told CANA.

The two-week meeting was called by SELA to discuss solutions to their common problems in the areas of financing, trade, and cooperation, and is being attended by 25 member states.

SELA's ongoing 10th Latin American council meeting will discuss economic relations with the United States and with the European Economic Community (EEC), joint positions to be taken in international forums, means to strengthen regional financing mechanisms such as the Caribbean Multilateral Clearing Facility (CMCF), and potential for expanding counter-trade and barter in the face of foreign exchange limitations. The meeting will also encompass discussions on foreign debt, food security, and a two-year regional cooperation plan for the 1984-1986 period, among other issues.

The SELA official said regional action is urgent in these fields to overcome the worst economic crisis in the Caribbean and Latin America during the last 50 years. "The gross national product (GNP) per capita for Latin American and Caribbean nations as a whole fell six percent in 1983," Alergrett said, adding, "We are now close to 1976 per capita levels."

"The economic recovery of the industrialised nations (this year) contains distortions that limit the possibility of recovery for the rest of the world economy. Among these distortions are rising interest rates and protectionism," he added, calling for regional action. Alegrett said that rising interest rates will force Latin American and Caribbean debtors to pay an additional four billion dollars (U.S.) in interest payments on their 360-billion-dollar (U.S.) foreign debt this year. This increase will cancel out about 50 percent of the benefits derived from a 10 percent hike in exports to the developed countries, he added. Rising interest rates will also continue to stimulate capital flight from the region toward world financial markets and the U.S. in particular, reducing investment in the region and slowing economic recovery and development, Alergreet added.

SELA's technical level talks will continue through Oct 22 and ministerial level conferences will take place between Oct 24-26. English-speaking Caribbean delegations attending the meeting include Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago.

VATICAN SEEKING TO OVERCOME ACCORD 'DIFFICULTIES'

PY170200 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0020 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Excerpts] Rome, 17 Oct (NA) -- As soon as Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Agostino Casaroli arrives from Buenos Aires he will preside over a meeting during which the Vatican mediation bureau and the Argentine and Chilean delegations will try to overcome the difficulties they have encountered in the drafting of two or three basic items of the Beagle accord. Vatican sources questioned about the meeting merely said that "its significance is obvious by the fact that Cardinal Casaroli will arrive in Rome at 1100 (Italian time) and that the meeting is scheduled to begin at 1300.

Rumors were heard in the Vatican this afternoon indicating that "if it becomes necessary to delay the initialing of the treaty for 24, 48, or 72 hours it would not be a problem because having waited for so long already it would be better to wait a while longer to have an effective and lasting treaty."

The bureau for the mediation did not confirm any of these rumors although those acquainted with the way the Vatican works say that the above-mentioned possibility should not be ruled out and some have even speculated that the new date for initialing the treaty could be Monday, 22 October.

While both Argentines and Chileans insist that the official date for initialing the treaty is Thursday, 18 October, Latin American diplomats have indicated that any delay, no matter how brief, would not please the Argentine Foreign Ministry, which allegedly recently instructed Under Secretary Marcelo Delpech that the timetable arranged in advance must be kept.

The above diplomatic sources explained that the idea is that President Raul Alfonsin would arrive in Europe after the treaty had been signed in a concrete demonstration of the Argentine Government's "peaceful intentions."

FRENCH, SWEDES TO PRESS RIGHTS CONCERNS

PY162245 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 16 Oct 84

[By Monica Flores Correa]

[Text] French President Francois Mitterrand is expected to express to President Raul Alfonsin his government's concern about the legal status of Navy Captain Alfredo Astiz, who is still free despite having been accused by various witnesses as being one of the persons responsible for the disappearance of two French nuns, reliable sources told the HERALD yesterday. Mitterrand is expected to voice his concern to Alfonsin when the Argentine president travels to France on October 21. The sources said that in several messages sent to the Argentine Foreign Ministry, the French Government has said it is highly surprised by the fact that Astiz has not been tried and punished. Astiz has been accused of serious human rights abuses, including having actively participated in kidnappings and torture at the Navy Mechanics School (ESMA) during the former military regime.

Likewise, the sources said, French Government officials were said to have been surprised that even if the Argentine Government was unwilling to try Astiz for human rights crimes, given its difficult relations with the Armed Forces, it had not at least sanctioned him for his prompt surrender to British forces as naval commander of the Argentine forces on the South Georgia Islands during the South Atlantic war.

"Not only the French Government is worried that Astiz is still free," the sources said. "The Swedish Government is also to express its concern through its foreign minister, Pierre Schori, who, during his visit here between November 6 and 8, is to press his government's demands for an explanation as to why the disappearance of the Swedish youth Dagmar Hagelin has not yet been cleared up and why Astiz, who has been charged with responsibility in her disappearance, is still free," the sources added.

VIDELA WANTS CHARGES RETURNED TO MILITARY COURT

PY162255 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 16 Oct 84 p 11

[Excerpt] (NA) -- Ex-President Jorge Videla yesterday presented the Federal Appeals Court with a special appeal to have the charges against him of criminal responsibility in the "dirty war" excesses sent back to the Armed Forces Supreme Council. The retired lieutenant-general also charged that "the government's intention is not to have a judgement by trial but rather to condemn."

In a 36-page petition which included a long justification of the anti-subversive tactics used in the anti-subversion war, Videla claimed that the military council was the "natural judge" for the crimes he is charged with. The former Army commander-in-chief also argued that Decree 158 -- which brought court charges against the process leaders -- and Law 23,049 -- which amended the Military Code of Justice to allow the federal courts to intervene in the military trials -- are unconstitutional. He then said that the "implacable enemy" defeated by the military during the dirty war "is now trying to demean the victors."

Videla yesterday also named his former justice minister, Alberto Rodriguez Varela, as his defence lawyer in the charges which are now before the federal criminal court after the military council failed to pass judgement on the leaders of the military regime within the specified time limit.

DEPUTIES ON ARREST OF CHILEAN POLITICIANS

PY122042 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0439 GMT 11 Oct 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Oct (TELAM) -- The Radical bloc in the Chamber of Deputies has labeled the detention of political leaders ordered by the Chilean military regime, political leaders who were released this afternoon, as a disproportionate and unjustified repressive escalation. Through a communique, the bloc of the ruling party in the Chamber of Deputies also stated its broadest solidarity with the imprisoned democratic leaders and with the struggle being waged by our brotherly nation to recover its sovereignty and democracy.

Intransigent Deputy Miguel Montserrat, who sent telegrams to President Augusto Pinochet, to the commanders in chief of the Navy and the Air Force, and to Santiago's appellate court judge asking that they be released, has also shown interest in the situation of the imprisoned Chilean politicians.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO VATICAN -- Pope John Paul II has received the credentials of Santiago Manuel de Estrada, the new Argentine ambassador to the Vatican. [Summary] [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Oct 84 PY]

INTERNATIONAL TIN COUNCIL MEETING ENDS

PY061610 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0737 GMT 6 Oct 84

[Text] Santa Cruz, 5 Oct (EFE) -- The International Tin Council [CIE], an umbrella group for tin-producing and tin-consuming countries, will control tin exports and prices in the international market.

This is one of the resolutions adopted during the second meeting of mines ministers of tin-producing countries that was held on 1-5 October in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. The ministers examined the difficult situation of tin-producing countries (Australia, Bolivia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, and Zaire) due to the fluctuating and low prices of the metal in the international market. The situation became acute because of the oversupply of tin, the sale of tin reserves by the U.S. General Service Administration, and the economic recession that has shrunk the market. The ministers expressed the need for the CIE to regulate the market until the supply, demand, and prices of the metal return to normal.

The mines ministers of the countries, members of the Tin Producing Countries Association (APPE), will again meet on 16 October 1985 in Australia to evaluate the evolution of the tin market. In March 1985, the ministers will hold a special meeting in London to define the steps the APPE will take to investigate the evolution of the market.

HIGH-RANKING MILITARY APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

PY160315 Paris AFP in Spanish 0300 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] [Words indistinct] It was officially disclosed here in (?La Paz) that General Simon Sejas Tordoya, current commander in chief of the Army, has been appointed commander in chief of the Armed Forces. At the same time, General Jose Olvis Arias, commander of the military college, was promoted to commander in chief of the Army. Bolivian Air Force Commander General Oscar Villa Urioste and Navy Commander Rear Admiral Edwin Vargas have been confirmed in their posts. In statements to AFP, Sejas Tordoya promised to continue supporting the democratic process as he did in his capacity as Army commander.

It is believed that the presidential decision is aimed at calming some unrest within military circles in order to preserve Bolivian democracy.

Swearing-In Ceremony

PY161327 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Through an executive decree, President Hernan Siles Zuazo has appointed Major General Simon Sejas Tordoya as commander in chief of the Armed Forces. In a ceremony held last night at Government House, President Siles Zuazo gave the oath of office to General Sejas Tordoya in the presence of cabinet members and high-ranking military officers. During the ceremony, President Siles Zuazo also gave the oath of office to the newly-appointed Army commander in chief, Brigadier General Jose Olvis Arias. Moreover, the president confirmed in their posts the Navy and Air Force commanders.

In the speech he delivered last night at the swearing-in ceremony in Government House, Gen Sejas Tordoya noted:

[Begin Sejas recording] This is a difficult time in the history of our country since we are called upon to exercise national responsibilities. A time in which the turbulence of human passions strive to destroy honor, truth and, what is even more dangerous, human dignity. Nevertheless, justice will prevail as the most important practice to be exercised by a human being.

Your Excellency, this is how I view the situation at this time in which once again you honor me with your trust by appointing me to the difficult and important duties of commander of the Armed Forces. [end recording]

PRESIDENT DISMISSES ANTIDRUG COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

PY051307 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 5 Oct 84

[Text] Rafael Otazo, who until recently had been chairman of the National Council Against Drug Trafficking, cannot represent or exercise any functions within the council. In a note, Presidential Secretary Miguel Uriote said that this decision was made by President Hernan Siles Zuazo.

It has also been announced that Otazo will have to formally turn over the offices of the council to National Financial Administrative Director Roberto Vega. Urioste has already notified Otazo of this decision.

The copy of a note addressed to Otazo on 7 September was also released to the media. Through this note, Otazo was notified that President Siles Zuazo had ordered his suspension as chairman of the National Council Against Drug Trafficking and that he would have every guarantee in order to appear and to submit evidence on the charges that he had made before the Justice and Constitutional Committee of the Chamber of Deputies.

INTERIOR MINISTER DISCUSSES GOVERNMENT COALITION

PY161354 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Excerpts] Yesterday's meeting of high-ranking members of the government coalition did not arrive at any decision regarding the PDC [Christian Democratic Party] decision to leave the government. At the end of the meeting held yesterday at Government House, Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata said that they reviewed the present political situation within the Democratic and Popular Unity [UDP] government coalition, but that no decisions were made.

President Siles Zuazo yesterday called an emergency meeting of leaders of the political parties that make up the UDP coalition to study measures that may be adopted in view of the PDC's decision to leave the UDP coalition.

[Begin recording] [Alvarez Plata] The president is studying this problem and even carrying out some consultations, and we hope it will be completely resolved within a couple of days. [end recording]

Alvarez Plata, who is also a high-ranking leader of the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left [MNRI], said that they did not discuss the possibility of inviting the PS-1 [Socialist Party One] to participate in the government. However, the interior minister noted that everything is up to the president.

[Begin Alvarez Plata recording] The entire issue is in the president's hands. [end recording]

This is what Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata said yesterday about the results of the meeting held by the UDP Executive Committee, which declared itself in permanent session as of yesterday.

AFP: SAUDI GENERAL OFFENDED BY OTHERS' BEHAVIOR

PY161900 Paris AFP in Spanish 1805 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 16 OCt (AFP) -- Police sources in Rio de Janeiro today stated that Saudi General Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Khalifah, whose mysterious disappearance last Thursday puzzled all Brazilians, hastily fled to Europe after he quarreled with some of his countrymen. Al-Khalifah was a member of a Saudi delegation which, after signing a military cooperation treaty in Brasilia, was paying a visit to Rio de Janiero.

Al-Khalifah disappeared from the Caesar Park Hotel in Ipanema district last Thursday and has since then been sought by more than 400 policemen. The Brazilian police did not attach any importance to a telephone call made by the so-called Jewish Defense League, announcing that it had kidnapped Al-Khalifah.

The Jewish Defense League threatened to kill the Saudi general today at 2000 if the Saudi-Brazilian military cooperation agreement is not rejected.

This morning the Jewish Defense League told a radio station that the general's corpse could be found in Campo Grande, some 40 km from Rio de Janeiro. Indeed, there was a body there, but it wasn't Al-Khalifah's, the police stated.

Sources agree that the general fled after quarreling with the members of the delegation presided over by Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. Apparently, the imprudent behavior of his colleagues in the hot Brazilian nights incited the general, a fervent Islam faithful, to cut short his stay in the former capital city of Brazil. According to a hotel employee, a ladies task force for special clients was recruited by the Saudi delegation which, on the same night that the general disappeared, spent $5,500 on Dom Perignon champagne.

Thus far, the general's name has not been found on any of the passenger lists of the flights bound for Europe but, according to a police source, the general could have used forged papers to leave the country. The same source stated that the possibility that the general may reappear alive somewhere in Europe, particularly in London, where he owns many houses, was not excluded today.

The Saudi ambassador to Brazil, Abdallah Salih Hababi, has stated, for his part, that even if the general were not found alive it would not affect the treaty signed between the two countries.

Flew to London

PY162205 Paris AFP in Spanish 2146 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Brasilia, 16 Oct (AFP) -- Brazilian Justice Minister Ibrahim Abi-Ackel tonight said that Saudi General Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Khalifah, who disappeared from the Cesar Park Hotel in Rio de Janeiro on Thursday, 11 October, departed Brazil on the same date on board a Varig flight to London.

According to Minister Ibrahim Abi-Ackel, a quarrel with other members of the Saudi delegation which came to Brazil to negotiate arms purchases, was what prompted the flight of General Al-Khalifah, who was accompanying Saudi Defense Minister Sultan Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud.

WEAPONS MANUFACTURING DELEGATION LEAVES FOR MIDEAST

PY161412 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 13 Oct 84 p 5

[Text] Engineer Jose Luiz Whitaker Ribeiro, president of Specialized Engineers Inc. [Engesa] and the Ordnance Industry [IMBEL], and General Jose Albuquerque, chairman of the IMBEL administrative council and chief of the Army War Materiel Department, left for the Middle East last night without revealing the itinerary of their 20-day trip, which will take them to several countries, among them Libya, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia. Their objective is to gauge and evaluate Arab interest in buying more Brazilian weapons.

Gen Albuquerque said that they might inform, the press might be informed about some of the results of their mission. However, he said that, according to what Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro has already explained, Brazil is very careful in its weapons exports policy, because it takes into consideration the geopolitical balance of each region. In the case of the Middle East, the general said, Brazil had signed contracts to supply weapons to Iraq before it started the war against Iran, which explains why the Brazilian authorities react cautiously to Iran's alleged interest in buying Brazilian weapons.

The Brazilian mission, which is considered to be of a business-military character, will be present at the testing of new Brazilian weapons in simulated theaters of operations in the desert. The new Osorio tank, built by Engesa, will be tested on 29 October in Saudi Arabia. The success of this test will be a boost for new sales, not only to the Saudis but also to other Middle East clients, according to military sources.

PAULO MALUF DISCUSSES COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS

PY150003 Paris AFP in Spanish 2140 GMT 13 Oct 84

[Text] Brasilia, 13 Oct (AFP) -- From the eighth floor of the Sao Marcos Hotel in Brasilia, his electoral headquarters, Paulo Maluf, 53, presidential candidate of the ruling party (PDS, Social Democratic Party), gazes at the Planalto Presidential Palace and tells AFP: In 3 months I will be elected president of Brazil. The constantly smiling, eyes hidden by thick glasses, former governor of powerful Sao Paulo State does not seem to be concerned at all with the disintegration of the PDS, a faction of which is supporting his adversary in the presidential race, Tancredo Neves.

My adversary has lost his identity by joining forces with old foxes who have been taking advantage of the authoritarian regime for 20 years, Maluf claims, meaning former Governor of Bahia State Antonio Carlos Magalhaes, who has accused Maluf of being corrupt and whom Maluf has sued. He also means Jose Sarney, former president of the PDS and the current candidate for vice president on Neves' ticket. However, Maluf mentions no names. Rather than calling PDS dissidents traitors, as the government has done, he prefers to label them future wonder boys.

Maluf describes himself as an opponent within the ruling party and claims to have substantial support among the ranks of the opposition parties. To ensure this support Maluf does not hesitate to promise, for the first time since he has launched his campaign, direct presidential elections in 1988 (that is, 3 years before the upcoming presidential term is due to expire), a broad constitutional reform and a reform of political parties.

Maluf, who is a descendant of Lebanese immigrants, a community of some 5 million people, believes that Brazil's main problems are the foreign debt (100 billion), the northeast (where 25 million people lead miserable lives), unemployment, and health and education shortcomings.

Concerning the foreign debt, Maluf, who claims to be a strong nationalist, feels that the U.S. policy of high interest rates constitutes exploitation of developing and poor nations. We will pay our debt as long as it does not mean giving up our sovereignty, Maluf says.

The northeast, one of the most densely populated areas in Latin America, has been neglected and it is time to address our attention to it, according to Maluf, who feels that the agrarian reform demanded by the opposition is not a cure-all. The presidential candidate of the ruling party believes that the northeast requires huge irrigation projects, a well-organized agricultural credit policy, and modern agricultural methods.

As to the huge social problems (unemployment, illiteracy and medical care), Maluf indicates that he will act as a president-businessman. The Brazilian must be taught to be a producer and a consumer, which means that first he must be educated and healthy.

In Maluf's opinion little is left to be done about foreign policy. Concerning the reestablishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba (one of the few countries which do not have a diplomatic mission in Brazil), Maluf answers that Brasilia is not interested in having commercial relations with Havana but admits that the problem is actually political. We do not maintain relations with nations which try to export their ideology to our country, Maluf says.

He also says that he will not allow clandestine parties (Brazilian Communist Party, Communist Party of Brazil, which is pro-Albania, and the 8 October Revolutionary Movement) to obtain legal status. We will not accept parties financially linked to other countries, no matter which, Maluf tells AFP. He adds that the parties must be national and mentioned the Italian and French Communist Parties.

As to his description as a cynical and corrupt man in the local press, Maluf retaliates by attacking one of the largest Sao Paulo newspapers, O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO. It is a racist newspaper which hates immigrants and their offspring, Maluf states. Maluf told the AFP journalist to go and ask the people of Sao Paulo what they think about him.

To try and erase this image of a corrupt man, Maluf is trying to superimpose on it another image, that of a hard-working and competent person, hard work and competence being the slogan of his electoral campaign.

POLICE DETAIN TWO COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERS

PY161318 Sao Paulo Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0230 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Excerpt] The clandestine Brazilian Communist Party [PCB] has reappeared on police records. Regis Fratti and Salomao Malina, members of the National PCB Provisional Board Committee, were detained today by the Federal Police Department of Political and Social Order, charged with violating Article 25 of the new National Security Law.

Both Fratti and Malina were accused of reorganizing and running the clandestine Communist Party. The federal police also seized a circular in which all sympathisers of the PCB are instructed how to act. The federal police reported that printed materials were found at the headquarters of the newspaper A VOZ DA UNIDADE at 230 7 de Abril Street, on the 13th floor. Fratti and Malina were questioned and then released.

'EXTREMISTS' SET FIRES IN VALPARAISO, CONCEPTION

PY161809 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Extremists have set fires in Valparaiso and Conception. In Conception, extremists sprayed a public bus with fuel and then set it afire. The bus, which served the Conception-Coronel Lota line, was owned by businessman Carlos Merelo Pastorini and was parked when it was set afire.

In the Villa Hermosa District of Vina del Mar, subversive criminals set a building afire which housed a youth center, a workshop of the Minimum Employment Program, and an office of the local neighborhood committee.

The police are also investigating two forest fires which took place in the Placilla area and which destroyed 21,000 square meters of brush and grazing land in Las Mercedes and La Plantacion. Both forest fires were started intentionally.

EXPLOSIONS BLACK OUT SANTIAGO, OTHER AREAS

Machine Gun Fire Reported

PY170215 Paris AFP in Spanish 0142 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] Santiago, 16 Oct (AFP) -- Various zones of Santiago have been blacked out since 2200 local time with no information available as to the cause of this situation. In downtown Santiago the blackout is partial and the Presidential Palace lost power for a few minutes while many buildings have turned on their emergency generators. The blackout is total in various neighborhoods of the Chilean capital where both street and residential lights are out, radio stations have reported. In Vina del Mar, 140 km northeast of Santiago, the blackout is practically complete and there are reports indicating that before the lights went off explosions and machine gun fire were heard.

Carabineros Report 'Complete Calm'

PY170255 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0225 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] We have just received a report that a Carabineros helicopter on patrol has ascertained that 60 or 70 percent of greater Santiago is blacked out. An earlier patrol had reported that some problems were detected in Puente Alto, near the cemetery, more specifically at the [name indistinct], but in general complete calm prevails in greater Santiago. According to Carabineros 60 or 70 percent of the city is without power, but calm and tranquillity prevails.

We are now getting a report that power is returning in western Santiago while Valparaiso, (Libache), and Vina del Mar are still without power.

[Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish at 0235 GMT on 17 October states that "Carabineros have just reported that excesses perpetrated at certain points of Santiago [words indistinct] are being effectively controlled by Carabineros personnel. We repeat that the situation resulting from unruly behavior of certain individuals who have damaged private vehicles and buses is being taken in hand by Carabineros and has not escalated." The station indicates that the people may rest assured and go to sleep since everything is under control.]

Bombings Cause Blackout

PY170310 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] The metropolitan area and most of the 6th region were blacked out tonight. The loss of electric power occurred at 2200 local time and according to the Chilean Power Company was due to damage caused to the Charrua-Santiago and [name indistinct] -Santiago powerlines. In the latter case the damage was caused by an explosive device which destroyed pylon 122 [as heard] of the (Cobihua) sector.

Meanwhile, subversive criminals exploded several bombs throughout the metropolitan area, power pylons and generators being the main targets. Criminal elements took advantage of the blackout to burn tires and erect barricades at which they extorted tolls from drivers and pedestrians.

Valparaiso and Vina del Mar also lost power along with La Serena, Rancagua, and Talca. In Talca, a bomb was thrown at the offices of the Agricultural and Livestock Service.

Outage Widespread

PY171229 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0908 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] Santiago, 17 Oct (EFE) -- All of Santiago, its metropolitan region, and many cities in the 4th to 10th regions suffered a 3-hour power outage as a consequence of a terrorist attack. The Chilean Electric Company, Ltd has issued a communique stating that last night's power outage was caused by a very powerful explosive device that had been placed at the base of high tension pylon 92 [as received] which is located near Melipilla City. There were attacks against high tension pylons in April 1984 in Melipilla, 45 km south of Santiago, causing a power outage in the metropolitan region of Santiago and in six other regions of Chile.

Last night's power outage took place at 2200, and it left the zone near Santiago in complete darkness for 15 mintues. Afterwards, the radio stations, transmitting with emergency equipment, reported that partial or complete power outages had taken place from La Serena, 500 km north of Santiago, to Temuco, 700 km south of the capital. The most populated cities affected were those of Valparaiso and Vina del Mar, which are practically one city and are located 145 km northwest of Santiago. The two cities have a total of 500,000 inhabitants. According to radio reports, explosives devices were also thrown against three bank agencies in Valparaiso.

Terrorist attacks with Molotov cocktails were also carried out against a Santiago bank and the U.S.-Chilean Institute in the city of Rancagua, 85 km south of the capital. The Chilean railway company likewise reported that an explosion had cut the railway line between the cities of Concepcion and Chillan, located in its southern section.

From the start, Carabineros patrolled the streets of major cities to prevent excesses taking place during the blackout, as well as to prevent traffic accidents from occurring due to the lack of traffic lights. However, one person was reported dead due to a traffic accident on a Santiago street.

The last major power outage caused by terrorist attacks that affected Santiago and the central zone of Chile took place on 14 June.

SWITZERLAND'S AUBERT MEETS WITH BETANCUR

PA102229 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 10 Oct 84

[By Elvira Sanchez]

[Text] Pierre Aubert, head of Switzerland's Department of Foreign Affairs, met this morning with President Belisario Betancur during the course of an official visit to Colombia to discuss subjects such as international affairs, East-West relations, disarmament, European intercommunity relations, the Nonaligned Movement, and, mainly, the efforts being made by the Contadora Group. Upon leaving Narino Palace, the Swiss official spoke briefly with newsmen

[Begin recording] [Aubert -- speaking in French with consecutive translation into Spanish] It was very kind of President Betancur to meet with me here today. I have just been to Buenos Aires and Caracas, and from this visit to Bogota I will be going on to Mexico. In Argentina and Venezuela the presidents were also kind enough to meet with us. For me it was especially gratifying to meet with the Colombian president and foreign minister because these are two gentlemen who are devoting their lives to the noblest cause of all causes, that of peace.

[Reporter] What specific task are you pursuing in Colombia?

[Aubert] Some of the topics to be discussed during my visit are related to the efforts of the Contadora Group. We believe that this is a very important and interesting effort. It is something of a challenge to try to obtain peace and stability in this part of the world, which is of great interest to us. [end recording]

SOVIET SHIP RUNS AGROUND NEAR GARRISON

PA161422 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Report by Emilio Acevedo Silva]

[Text] Santa Marta -- A Soviet vessel has run aground on the beaches in front of the military garrison of the Colombian Army's 1st Division, where Santa Marta's 55th Cordoba Battalion is headquartered. The (Polanskiy) is transporting containers of general cargo. It ran aground after crossing the security line that is marked off by buoys placed in Santa Marta Bay. The vessel is stranded on sand banks near the beach. Thus far, attempts to remove it have failed. Colombian Port authorities report that access to Santa Marta's pier area has not been obstructed by the stranded vessel.

INTERVIEW WITH GUERRILLAS IN LA URIBE REPORTED

PA161520 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 11 Oct 84 pp 1A, 9A

[Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, members interviewed by Jorge Mario Eastman at La Uribe, on Saturday, 6 October]

[Text] A number of unscheduled events a few days ago turned me into a more or less well-informed interlocutor during the dialogue with members of the general command of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, (FARC). These events have given me some authority to make brief, and I hope correct, conclusions on the pacification process started by the government. I will mention, in chronological order, the reasons why I am involved in it, and some of my observations, as we go along.

On a recent trip to Paris, where I participated in a forum on Latin American problems, I was forced to pick up some basic literature on the violence-subversion phenomenon in our continent. More specifically, those investigations which, aside from those published in the 1940's, 1950's and early 1960's, may delve deeper into the topic, which if properly treated will weigh heavily on the democratic stability of Latin America. Fortunately, good advisers advised me to study two recently published background works: "The 1000-Day War" by Jorge Villegas and Jose Yuis, and "Bandits, Bosses, and Peasants" by Gonzalo Sanchez and Dommy Meertens. The contents of these books raise them to the category of priceless elements of judgment to analyze the phenomenon of subversion. Based on these two valuable materials, I made some commentaries (CONSIGNA No 249) and prepared several notes that could have proved useful, had such important topics been brought up on that occasion, but which, anyway, I consider material for necessary future reference.

In Madrid, Ambassador Valderrama informed that he had received a telegram from President Betancur appointing me to the "Peace Verification Commission." Such a noble task, added to my position as permanent, but Constructive and respectful critic of the administration, explained my immediate acceptance of such an interesting, honorable, and obliging position.

Later, after holding two meetings without FARC spokesmen, I was brought up to date on the functions and plans of the commission. Now, after three convocations, postponed for various reasons, somewhere in the mountains beyond La Uribe, I have just participated in the first meeting with Manuel Marulanda Velez and Jacobo Arenas; that is, the FARC spokesmen designated by President Betancur and who, along with Alfonso Cano and Raul Reyes, also present, and Jaime Guaracas, make up the FARC general command.

The meeting was also attended by prominent politicians, ranking journalists, well-known businessmen, besides authorized representatives of other movements such as 19 April Movement [M-19], Pedro Leon Arboleda Urban Command [PLA], Workers Self-Defense [ADO], Socialist Revolutionary Party [PRS], and People's Liberation Army [EPL] (FARC dissident sector).

At the meeting, which could be described as plenary, Jacobo Arenas read a document expressing the thought and projections of FARC in the pacification process. Immediately thereafter, the president of the commission, Former Minister John Agudelo Rios, and Manuel Marulanda Velez, through presidential adviser Amparo Bouza, exchanged two draft regulations to establish the rules of the game in carrying out the "La Uribe Agreements."

In this first meeting with FARC, I was the coordinator on the private meeting between liberal members and Marulanda, Arenas, Cano, and Reyes. It was attended by Senators Bula Hoyos and Urrea Delgado, Representative Serpa Uribe, former Governor Escallon Villa, union leader Jose Corredor, and journalists Oscar Alarcon, Margarita Vidal, and Lucy Nieto.

Later, after 2 hours of a frank exchange of opinions, a group of businessmen took our place to begin a private dialogue, without reserves of any kind, with FARC leaders. We remember among them Alfredo Carvajal Sinisterra, Carlos Villa Navarro, Carlos Ossa Escobar, Juan Sebastian Betancur, and Nicanor Restrepo.

A comparison of these interviews plus the personal appraisals of former Ministers Jaime Arias and Gerardo Ayerbe Chaux, union leader Gustavo Serpa, university Professor Guillermo Hoyos, and the members of leftist groups such as Ricardo Sanchez, Vera Grable, and Gelacio Cardona, as well as Secretary General of the Communist Party Gilberto Viera and its spokesman, Alberto Rojas Puyo, allowed one to make some assumptions on the possible immediate projections of this meeting.

Apologizing for any omissions, as I had to write these lines rapidly a few hours after arriving in Bogota in order to make the present edition, and with the possibility of discussion other considerations later, I wish to point out the following:

1. The FARC, without denying its primary objective of gaining power, just like any political movement, feels that their scheme of struggle of over 30 years has not generated the necessary "objective and subjective conditions." Therefore, the time has come to become a political movement, within the rules of the game of "bourgeois democracy," according to the term often used by Jacobo Arenas. It is logical to think that they accept this within the same rights and obligations that govern the activities of other parties.

2. The FARC strongly condemns recent kidnappings and extortions as instruments of struggle and, consequently, blames old deserters and common criminals for such sinister actions. Manuel Marulanda has offered, for example, to publish the names of the criminals who continue, against his express orders, to carry out such abominable crimes. Asked by journalist Lucy Nieto about individuals such as Abraham Dominguez, Cesa Cordoba, and Jose Luis Arango, Marulanda refused to accuse anyone for such kidnappings.

3. The FARC admits that it is deceptive to think that the structural social, political, and economic reforms the country needs can be achieved overnight; therefore, they are prepared to help carry them out through a national dialogue, a mass movement, and, obviously, through congress in a gradual manner, but as fast as circumstances demand.

Let us hope that the Vertification Commission may fulfill its important commitment sincerely, honestly, and patriotically. In my opinion a timely, in-depth reform, in peace and freedom, would prevent Colombia's ending up in the same bloody situation as El Salvador or in an even worse holocaust. Obviously, to avoid this it is necessary to have the people's general consensus and the decisive understanding of their leaders, and above all of the Armed Forces, without whose high professional status the Republic might have met another fate.

These lines cannot be endorsed by anyone but their writer, who had to undergo the experience in order to produce them.

BRIEFS

MARIJUANA SHIPMENT CONFISCATED -- In the past few hours the police confiscated 18,000 pounds of marijuana in Carretalito, Villanueva, and San Juan del Cesar and arrested 11 people. The shipment of marijuana was worth $6 million. The police reported that those responsible for the shipment of marijuana escaped. [Summary] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 27 Sep 84 p 3 A PA]

ARMED FORCES BUDGET REDUCTION -- As a result of a 37.59-billion pesos reduction in the 1985 budget, the amount allocated to the Colombian Armed Forces suffered a 10-percent reduction at a time when public security operations are being stepped up and the Defense Ministry is trying to update its obsolete equipment. This budget reduction will mean a decrease of almost 50 percent in Army operations throughout the country. Because of continued shortage of resources, the Colombian Air Force's Mirages have been grounded for months. [Summary] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 25 Sep 84 p 9A PA]

COST OF LIVING RISES -- The National Administrative Department of Statistics has reported that the cost of living for Colombians rose 12.87 percent during the first 9 months of this year. This increase is very similar to the 12.99-percent price increase between January and September 1983. Several factors caused the increase, such as the fiscal deficit, unemployment, import restrictions, and other difficulties affecting the marketing products. [Summary] [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 5 Oct 84 p 10 PA]

GOVERNMENT TO VETO CONGRESS RESOLUTIONS

PA160428 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2200 GMT 15 Oct 84

[Text] Quito, 15 Oct (EFE) -- The Ecuadoran Government today announced that it will veto any resolution approved by the National Congress, which is scheduled to hold a special meeting tomorrow. The official announcement was made today by spokesman Joffre Torbay.

The executive and legislative branches have been struggling for power in the Supreme Court of Justice for the last 10 days. Torbay reported a communique from President Leon Febres Cordero to Acting Congress President Carlos Feraud requesting the postponement of the special congress meeting until the current parliamentary meeting concludes.

FEBRES CORDERO, CONGRESS PRESIDENT BEGIN TALKS

PA161937 Paris AFP in Spanish 1928 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Quito, 16 Oct (AFP) -- A dialogue between the presidents of the Republic and the parliament began at Carondelet Palace at 1340 today. Congress President Raul Baca went to the office of Ecuadoran President Leon Febres Cordero in the first contact made in more than 2 months of this administration.

BOMB EXPLODES IN OPPOSITION DEPTUTY'S HOME

PA141247 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 13 Oct 84

[Text] A bomb exploded at midnight on Thursday in the home of an opposition deputy. Congress President Raul Baca Carbo said that this is an attempt to institutionalize violence in order to attack the constitutional system. According to police, the medium strenth bomb exploded at midnight on Thursday in the living room of the Guayaquil home of Deputy Fernando Larrea, leader of the Democratic Left bloc the major opposition group. Although no casualties have been reported, damage is said to be extensive.

Baca Carbo has asked the government to conduct a prompt and efficient investigation to find those responsible for the attack.

BRIEFS

FORESTRY AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN -- Acting Agriculture Minister Carlos Donoso Echanique and (Katsuka Numata), head of the preliminary studies mission of Japan's international cooperation agency, have signed a technical cooperation agreement for the exploitation of forests in Napo. The agreement calls for conducting research in a 1.1-million-hectare area in northeastern Ecuador. [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 13 Oct 84 PA]

PERCOVICH, BRUSH ASSUME NEW CABINET POSTS

PY161725 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] The new interior minister, Oscar Brush Noel, assumed his post today and made an appeal for the unity and cohesion of all Peruvians. New Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Luis Percovich Roca also assumed office and stressed the importance of maintaining and strengthening the democratic system.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] The new head of the Interior Ministry, General Oscar Brush Noel, this morning assumed his post during a ceremony presided over by Dr Luis Percovich Roca, who is leading his Interior Ministry post and is now prime minister and foreign minister. During the 15-minute ceremony, both Gen Brush and Dr Percovich were greeted by high-ranking officers of the police forces and the Armed Forces, as well as by administrative personnel of the Interior Ministry. Later, Gen Brush stressed the importance of strengthening the democratic system, and said that his policy will be to fight crime. He added that he will follow his predecessor's policy of uprooting the Shining Path.

A few minutes later, Senator Sandro Mariategui, who is the second vice presidential candidate for the Popular Action Party, [AP], turned over the administration of the Foreign Ministry to Dr Luis Percovich Roca during a ceremony held at the Torre Tagle Palace at 1030. Afterward, Percovich commented to the press about the air agreement with the United States, and Senator Mariategui spoke about the recent comments made by Popular Christian Party [PPC] leader Luis Bedoya Reyes.

Minister Percovich, how will you face the problem of the air negotiations with the United States?

[Percovich] We will continue the negotiations that Sandro Mariategui and other government officials have been undertaking. Above all, we will serve the national interests, which are of such great concern to all Peruvians and which are the basis of our conduct during the negotiations.

[Reporter] Do you then think that the problem will be solved before the end of the year?

[Percovich] We hope it will be solved as quickly as possible.

[Reporter] Senator Mariategui, what do you think about the comments made by the PPC leader, who did not speak well of the AP?

[Mariategui] I think these comments are the result of all the madness and pressure of the pre-electoral period, which is about to come to an end. Statements are often made which, viewed in retrospect, can be rectified or explained in such a way as not to render them so insulting or contemptuous as they had seemed to be. [end recording]

MAJOR GENERAL MAURY TO BE NEW ARMY COMMANDER

PY161414 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Major General Francisco Maury Lopez will replace General Julian Julia tomorrow as the new commander in chief of the Army. This report was released by Gen Julia, who on 13 October became war minister, replacing General Oscar Brush Noel, who has been designated interior minister. The ceremony marking the transfer of power will be held at the War Ministry parade ground.

PRESIDENT ON FOREIGN DEBT, POLITICAL AFFAIRS

PY162110 Paris AFP in Spanish 1508 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Rivera, Uruguay, 16 Oct (AFP) -- In an interview granted to a Brazilian television station, Uruguayan President Gregorio Alvarez indicated that Latin American unity is necessary to create a truly democratic spirit in the region.

Alvarez, the last de facto president of Uruguay, emphasized that Latin America will be able to fulfill its obligations stemming from its foreign debt by conducting open trade with industrialized nations, using whatever exportable surpluses it may produce. The retired military officer explained that Uruguay is strictly filfilling its foreign debt obligations and is not in the least in arrears with its payments.

As to the nation's domestic affairs, Alvarez told the Brazilian TV station that he is not aware of any Uruguayans in exile. He said that those who left did so because they wanted to, or because they were wanted by the courts. The people who want to come back may do so freely, except for certain restrictions issued by the courts.

The chief executive, who is currently touring several rural departments of the country, also said that the Armed Forces will turn over power to the party which wins the upcoming general elections slated for November, because the redemocratization program is being fulfilled as planned.

ARMY COMMANDER JUSTIFIES ELECTORAL RESTRICTIONS

PY162120 Paris AFP in Spanish 1453 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Rivera -- Uruguayan Army Commander in Chief, General Hugo Medina, indicated here today that the presidential elections scheduled to take place in November will give the people the opportunity to express their feelings in elections which will be open, although with reasonable restrictions. During a rural tour, the military officer explained that these restrictions stem from our deep convictions that those who will not participate are not really entitled to do so. Two of the political forces that will participate in the elections, the Broad Front and the Blanco Party, are not running their true leaders, Liber Seregni and Wilson Ferreira, political sources recalled.

Gen Medina also made it clear that the military will not turn over power ahead of time, as their Argentine counterparts have done. The date set for surrendering power is 1 March 1985 and it will remain unchanged because he does not believe that it will be any more democratic to move the date forward.

BROAD FRONT CALLS FOR SUPPORT FOR NICARAGUA

PY162355 Paris AFP in Spanish 1618 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Montevideo, 16 Oct (AFP) -- The leftist Broad Front has urged the public at large and the political, social, and labor organizations to express their solidarity with Nicaragua and to remain on alert against the onslaughts of U.S. imperialism. The coalition, which hopes to win for itself the office of Montevideo mayor in the upcoming November elections, issued a declaration expressing firm support for the institutionalization efforts which the Nicaraguan Government is making. The declaration also repudiated various international maneuvers orchestrated by the United States to prevent the firming up of popular sovereignty in Sandino's country and to forcefully impose conditions on the Nicaraguan process.

The Broad Front also extended its gratitude and support for the efforts which are being made by the governments of the Contadora Group countries who, the front said, have effectively contributed to pacification and reduction of tensions in the area while fully respecting the sovereignty of Nicaragua and of other nations. The declaration issued by the Broad Front concluded by rejecting and scoring any direct or indirect U.S. attempts at armed aggression, invasion, or military pressure along borders, or any other type of threats.

UNIONS ASK FOR STAGGERED 97-PERCENT WAGE HIKE

PY161548 Paris AFP in Spanish 0045 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Montevideo, 15 Oct (AFP) -- The Uruguayan union movement today asked the business sector for wage increases totaling 97 percent on a staggered scale. This request was made within the framework of the negotiations being conducted through the National Program Agreement [Concertacion Nacional Programatica -- Conapro]. The workers made the request after last week rejecting a 47-percent increase.

According to union sources, the request is designed to improve the purchasing power of the workers, whose wages will have to be tripled if they are to match the purchasing power they had in 1968.

Business sectors said the proposal will be studied, but noted that it would be very difficult to honor it fully in view of the difficult situation it has been experiencing.

According to political sectors, the final outcome of the negotiations could result in the consolidation or dismantling of the Conapro, and organization made up of social, labor, and business sectors charged with studying national problems and proposing possible solutions.

EXILED UNION LEADER ROMERO ARRESTED UPON RETURN

PY112342 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 11 Oct 84

[Text] Delegates of the Interunion Workers Plenum and the National Convention of Workers this morning met with Montevideo Police Chief Colonel Raul Mermot. The union leaders asked the police chief why their fellow union leader Luis Romero had been arrested.

As we have already reported, Romero was detained by Colonia authorities upon returning from Argentina after several years in exile. After he was detained, it was said that he would be handed over to the military courts.

Radio El Espectador has learned that Romero may have been brought to Montevideo this morning. It is not known when he will be questioned by the military authorities.

Summoned by Military Court

PY122025 Paris AFP in Spanish 2245 GMT 11 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 11 Oct (AFP) -- It has been learned from sources close to the unions that Uruguayan trade unionist Luis Romero, who was arrested by the police upon returning to the country after a 10-year exile, today was released but will have to appear before a military court.

Romero, who came from Argentina, yesterday entered Uruguayan territory along with a group of 14 unionists who had also been in exile.

DE LA MADRID, SWITZERLAND'S AUBERT HOLD TALKS

FL161500 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0315 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Mexico City, 15 Oct (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico's President Miguel de la Madrid and Switzerland's Foreign Affairs Chief Pierre Aubert held private talks today. They discussed matters of bilateral and multilateral interest. The Swiss official paid a courtesy call on the Mexican president at the official Los Pinos residence, where the two dignitaries voiced their countries' agreement on foreign policy matters.

Spokesmen of the Presidency of the Republic reported that Mexico's Under Foreign Secretary Alfonso de Rosenzweig, Mexican Ambassador to Switzerland Agustin Barrios Gomez, and other officials of the Foreign Secretariat were present at the meeting. Present at the meeting for the Swiss side were Roland Wermuth, that country's ambassador to Mexico, and other officials.

ROK TRADE OFFICIAL ON THIR WORLD COOPERATION

FL161628 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0320 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Mexico City, 15 Oct (NOTIMEX) -- Korea and Mexico have stressed here today's need for cooperation among developing nations because of the industrialized countries' protectionism.

During the Korea-Mexico meeting, Choe Sho-chung, Korea's deputy minister of commerce and industry, and Luis Bravo Aguilera, Mexico's under foreign trade secretary, expressed the need for cooperation among Third World countries. In a speech made during the opening ceremony, the Mexican official said that the next year's establishment of a joint committee for economic cooperation between Korea and Mexico will prove to be an ideal tool for broadening and strengthening the economic and trade ties between the two countries.

UNDER SECRETARY REPORTS POSITIVE TRADE BALANCE

FL151744 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0237 GMT 13 Oct 84

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 12 Oct (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico's trade shows a positive balance of $7.3 billion, which is 8 percent higher than that registered in 1983, Under Secretary of Foreign Commerce Luis Bravo Aguilera has said. Bravo Aguilera warned about the need to increase non-oil exports to make the country's production apparatus more competitive, diversify the internal market, and integrate the borders to strengthen the national economic recovery.

CEMA INTERESTED IN INCREASING TRADE RELATIONS

FL151710 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1510 GMT 15 Oct 84

[By special correspondent Esteban Fuentes]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 15 Oct (NOTIMEX) -- CEMA Under Secretary Belane Kadar has said that the 10 socialist nations which form the CEMA organization are interested in increasing trade relations with Mexico. Interviewed by NOTIMEX, Kadar said that at present, relations with Mexico were good, and proof of this was that trade had tripled between 1980 and the present. Kadar noted that Mexico's crisis in 1980-1981 brought about a decrease in trade with the rest of the world, which including CEMA, but said that trade had improved since 1982.

Kalar said that CEMA-member nations were very interested in holding a fifth joint committee meeting with Mexico, because this would facilitate increasing cooperation in the agroindustrial sector. The official added that CEMA nations are conducting great efforts in the economic development sphere, and providing special support to Cuba, Mongolia, and Vietnam. Kadar said CEMA has provided a renewed impulse to development and cooperation, and is providing scholarships for establishing national-based groups in underdeveloped nations.

Seven CEMA-member countries will hold an exposition on technological advances in Mexico City on 9 November.

CONTADORA EFFORTS HAILED BY BULGARIA'S GRIGOROV

FL161423 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0310 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 15 Oct (NOTIMEX) -- Upon arrival in this capital today, Bulgaria's State Council Deputy Chairman Mitko Grigorov noted the urgent need for leading the world toward detente to avoid a nuclear war. Thus, he said, parliament members from all parts of the world must struggle to halt the arms race and achieve world peace. Grigorov said the Bulgarian people have a keen political sense which is why they want the economic, social, and political stability of all nations especially in the Central American region. Likewise, he praised Mexico's efforts in the Contadora Group, and stressed that his country is willing to fully support all nation's seeking a solution to this conflict via diplomatic means.

SHULTZ STATEMENTS FAVOR CONTADORA EFFORT

PA161519 Mexico City NOVEDADES in Spanish 13 Oct 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Support for Contadora"]

[Text] Secretary of State George Shultz' statements regarding the Central American problem, made after meeting with President Miguel de La Madrid in Los Pinos, favor the Contadora Group efforts. When NOVEDADES asked him about his government's opinion on the subject, he said that his country supports the peace efforts and he ruled out any serious objection to the Contadora Group peace plan.

The distinguished visitor said that the U.S. Government favors discussing some aspects of the document, which is almost ready for the final draft. He also suggested the inclusion of what he termed simultaneous revision by the signees. Such an attitude can only indicate the desire to make more clear what will probably be the final draft.

Secretary of State Shultz has presented a new picture of the Reagan administration's stand on the Central American conflict. Peace and stability are now placed under the aspect of economic development, justice, and democratic participation, factors that allow the conciliation of various opinions. "We want peace in the region," the top U.S. official said.

What Shultz said opens a new chapter for a possible understanding. The United States joins in the peace efforts with such statements. The aforementioned document is open to improvements rather than to drastic changes or annulment. Our government's positive participation has been recognized. Contadora has also received recognition.

COUNCIL RULES ON TRANSIT OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL

PA161509 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Oct 84 p 10 C

[By Jose Quintero de Leon]

[Text] The National Legislation Council, CNL, unanimously approved a resolution asking the Panamanian Defense Forces' Navy to take the necessary steps to prevent any vessel carrying radioactive materials from entering our territorial waters with the intention of transiting the Panama Canal. The resolution was submitted to the CNL by Camilo Franceschi, an independent congressman who insisted that the CNL make a statement on the subject in view of the threat of the population and the environment posed by the passage of vessels carrying such highly dangerous material.

According to the resolution, even if the Torrijos-Carter treaties do not prohibit the passage through the canal of vessels transporting radioactive material, the fact that Panama has sovereignty over territorial waters 200 miles from its coast means it can stop any vessel transporting such material from nearing its coast, thus safeguarding the population and natural resources. In this respect, it is up to the Defense Forces as guarantor of life, honor, and the property of citizens to comply with the Constitution. The resolution also includes the CNL's unanimous protest to the Governments of the United States, Great Britain, France, and Japan for using the canal to transport radioactive plutonium, without any consideration for the lives of the Panamanian people.

In explaining his motives, Congressman Franceschi said that Panama does not have the means to prevent or control an escape of hexafluoride of plutonium, as happened on 25 August along the coast of Belgium when a French vessel ran aground, causing a spillage of the dangerous substance. Carlos Alvarado, a progovernment congressman who supported Franceschi's resolution, said that even if Lieutenant General Dennis McAuliffe, the Canal Commission administrator, assures that tight security measures are taken, this is not enough for Panama.

Arnulfo Escaloni Rios, an opposition congressman who also favored the resolution, accused the Reagan administration and Japan of reaching an "irresponsible agreement" in which the opinions of Panamanians were not taken into consideration. LA PRENSA had already reported that the United States and Japan had signed an agreement allowing Japan to make 140 shipments of radioactive material (plutonium) from France and Great Britain which transit the Panama Canal.

A U.S. Senate commission suggested that the shipments be made by air to prevent a new risk, such as the recent one in the English Channel, but President Reagan has decided that the shipments will be made by sea through the Panama Canal.

MANFREDO ON CONFLICTS IN CANAL TREATIES LAW

PA161855 Panama City DIALOGO SOCIAL in Spanish 11-17 Oct 84 pp 24,25

["Excerpt" of speech by Fernando Manfredo Jr. deputy administrator of the Panama Canal Commission, at the University of Panama in Panama City on 28 September: "Law 96-70 -- Potential Source of Conflict"]

[Text] The Panamanian Government has made known to the U.S. Government its desire that Law 96-70, the Law on Implementation of the Panama Canal Treaties, be reformed. Panama has stated that the law contains a number of points that are and will permanently be sources of conflict between the Panamanian and U.S. Governments. I will name some of these.

A. The Board of Directors, which should be the highest governing body of the Panama Canal Commission [PCC], has been relegated to a merely supervisory role. The leadership of the PCC has fallen into the hands of the U.S. secretary of defense. Law 96-70 has changed the PCC's corporate structure, making it an arm of the U.S. executive branch. A board of directors is a corporation's leading body, but it cannot be subject to an office of the executive branch. Therefore, in order for the Board of Directors to carry out the functions that were assigned to it by the treaties, the PCC must be made a public corporation.

B. Law 96-70 establishes that all PCC employees are subject to U.S. laws pertaining to "obligations and responsibilities to which federal employees are subject." However, the treaties stipulate that PCC and U.S. forces would conform to the general principles contained in Panama's labor laws when establishing their terms and conditions of employment. To place all Panamanian employees under U.S. federal employment laws that are under U.S. jurisdiction annuls the greatest political achievement that the treaties had obtained.

C. Panamanian members of the Board of Directors and the Panamanian deputy administrator are subject to a code of conduct that is an outgrowth of the Implementation Law. Moreover, the law obliges them to take oaths of office when they assume their corresponding positions. Actually, the oath of office merely commits the official to carry out his duties. However, it must be taken in the presence of a U.S. Government official. The code of conduct is equally applicable to Panamanian and U.S. employees.

D. The Panamanian administrator who the Government of Panama will propose to assume control on 1 January 1990 will have to be approved by the U.S. Senate and confirmed by the President of the United States, who is entitled to reject the appointee Panama has chosen, to the detriment of the image and prestige of the president of the Republic of Panama.

E. The Law on Implementation of the treaties regulates labor relations in the PCC and in the U.S. forces by applying Chapter 71 of Title 5 of the U.S. Code, and it gives the U.S. Federal Relations Authority jurisdiction over Panamanian territory as well as authority to hold elections and make decisions regarding collective bargaining agreements concluded between the PCC, U.S. forces, and their employees.

F. The Law on Implementation gives employment eligibility preference to U.S. war veterans up to a maximum of 10 points in their employment evaluations and protects them in the event of reductions of force, even if as a consequence Panamanian employees must be sacrificed. The treaties award preference only to Panamanians, yet Law 96-70 included U.S. war veterans.

G. Law 96-70 modifies Paragraph 4 (c) of Article XIII of the Panama Canal treaties, which stipulates that Panama will be entitled to receive up to $10 million per year if a surplus is obtained after deducting canal operating costs from income. The Law on Implementation includes in the operating costs all expenditures derived from depreciation and disbursements programmed to replace equipment and make expansions and improvements, educational costs, and other public services enjoyed by the U.S. community (employees and their dependents); and any costs associated with the execution of the treaty and maintenance of the Panama Canal, even though these costs may have been incurred before the treaties were put into effect. To this must be added an additional expense of $19.5 million in disbursements to cancel retirement beneifts and leaves of former employees of the now-defunct Panama Canal Company and Government, plus other expenses not incurred by the PCC.

H. The law restricts the United States' financial obligations with regard to the Panama Canal to those directly related to income derived from the canal's operation. The treaties [as published] do not oblige the United States to make the necessary investments to guarantee uninterrupted traffic through the canal.

I. Law 96-70 stipulates that there must be a board of local inspectors in Panama authorized to conduct investigations in the event of maritime accidents, summon witnesses, administer oaths, and require the submission of the necessary files and documents to carry out such investigations.

J. By virtue of Law 96-70, all property and capital of the defunct Panama Canal Company was transferred to the United States, while the PCC maintains only the right to make use of these.

K. The law authorizes the transfer of any property or capital investment used by the PCC to any other U.S. Government agency, in Panama or outside it, without cost.

L. No U.S. property in Panamanian territory can be turned over to Panama without the prior consent, in the form of a law, of the U.S. Congress.

M. Law 96-70 authorized the President of the United States to establish vessel tonnages and transit fees. However, it restricts transit fees to the minimum fee necessary to maintain and operate the canal, to the exclusion of the surplus of $10 million stipulated in Paragraph 4 (c) of Article XIII of the treaties.

N. The law establishes unilaterally the formula on which the interests that the PCC must pay the U.S. Treasury for investments made in the canal are based.

O. The law gives the President of the United States a number of regulatory prerogatives that are characteristically matters of jurisdiction. Some of regulatory areas are: possession and use of alcoholic beverages; exclusion and eviction of individuals; health and environmental control; animal quarantines; sale and use of fireworks; use of roads and highways; protection of wildlife, game, and fishing; issuance of operating licenses for persons using canal waters, adjacent areas, and the ports of Balboa and Cristobal; and regulation of navigation in the ports of Balboa and Cristobal.

Former Panamanian President Aristides Royo sent former U.S. President Jimmy Carter two letters in which the Panamanian Government's desired modifications to Law 96-70 are specified. The Advisory Committee appointed a legal subcommittee to review Panama's objections. However, the committee ceased work, without any explanation that I know of. Former President Ricardo de la Espriella explained the problem to President Reagan when he he visited Washington on 1 October 1982. However, the problem continues, without any solution in sight.

CORRECTION TO ARDITO'S APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIALS

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Ardito Appoints Deputy Ministers, Other Officials," published in the 16 October Latin America DAILY REPORT, page N 1:

Second paragraph, penultimate line: Finance Treasury (confirmed), Azael Purcait;

Last line: Commerce and Industry, Ramon Segistan;

Third paragraph, sixth line: National Lottery, Ana Hernandez de Pitti; line nine: Human Resources Education and Training Institute, Rosamerica de Vasquez (correcting spelling of names)

CORRECTION TO U.S. DISMANTLING HOSPITAL

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "U.S. Reportedly Dismantling Coco Solo Hospital," published in the 16 October Latin America DAILY REPORT, page N 6:

Sourceline should read: Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 12 Oct 84 p 28 (supplying page number)

COSTA RICA

GOVERNMENT SENDS NEW PROTEST TO NICARAGUA

PA161358 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] The Costa Rican Foreign Ministry yesterday sent another protest note to Nicaragua in response to a statement by Nicaraguan Commander Daniel Ortega on his arrival at Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport [on 10 October]

In his statement, Commander Ortega reiterated the charges he made on 2 October at the UN General Assembly that U.S. mercenaries who use our territory are planning to launch an all-out attack from Costa Rica.

Presidency Minister Danilo Jimenez Vega [as heard], who is also acting foreign minister, has informed his Nicaraguan counterpart, Miguel D'Escoto, that he felt obligated to reiterate the strong protest filed earlier by Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez.

Jimenez Vega said in his note that Commander Ortega reiterated charges that have no basis and are untrue, and for this reason the government of Luis Alberto Monge has denied them.

Jimenez Vega's note states that Commander Ortega's insistence in making these unfounded charges is obviously to confuse international public opinion. The note says that such charges seriously hinder the correct relations that the Costa Rican Government maintains with Nicaragua.

250 NICARAGUAN REFUGEES ARRIVE, TAKEN TO SAN JOSE

PA162007 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Some 250 Nicaraguan refugees arrived last night in Costa Rica through the Boca Tapada sector. They were placed under the authority of the Costa Rican Red Cross, according to procedures, and a few hours later were taken to San Jose, where they will undergo routine medical check-ups. Once they qualify as refugees, they will be relocated to a transit center.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST NEW RADIO STATION CRITICIZED

PA161830 San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 5 Oct 84 p 2

[Editorial: "Another Democratic Pillar"]

[Text] Some sectors, who naively or hypocritically like to be called progressive or who sincerely admit to being communists, constantly talk about a supposed manipulation of what they call the bourgeois press by powerful sectors. However, when it is their turn to report or analyze certain facts, then appears in its true dimension what is known as the art of criminal and shameless minsinformation and manipulation of the truth.

The Nicaraguan communists have allowed their external bosses to take the necessary technical measures for Sandinist television and radio to blanket a large portion of Costa Rican territory. Such an infringement on our sovereignty was denounced a long time ago, even by President Carazo himself, who never concealed his friendliness toward the neighboring commanders.

Concerned about the weak signals of most Costa Rican stations, this government offered financial and technical support to those who desired the required power to cover the entire national territory, particularly in the northern sector. The investment was too expansive, and only two stations took advantage of the idea, installing 50-kilowatt transmitters,if we remember correctly. Another initiative was put forth by a European principality and the Catholic Church. The government had also asked for U.S. aid in an official note addressed to President Reagan.

In view of the insufficiency on the part of private enterprise, a group of 13 Costa Ricans, linked with the communications media or volunteer organizations but without their official representation, decided to create an association, the Costa Rican Association of Information and Culture, to use a frequency for culture, democracy, economic development, and social justice in the country. As someone said a few days ago in this paper, concurrence is not in itself an act of submission. Interested in taking part of the cultural programming from the Voice of America (VOA), the association agreed to a contract with the U.S. Information Agency, signed at the residence of President Monge, under his sponsorship and witnessed by all national reporters and foreign correspondents who wished to be present. There is no need to point out that such VOA programs have been transmitted in the past by the most prestigious local radio stations.

However, this was not an obstacle to the misinformers and manipulators who, consciously or unconsciously at the service of the extremists, took advantage of the issue. The contract which was signed in the presence of all the press, who received photocopies of it, was alleged to be secret, and it was said that establishing the station had violated our sovereignty, when in fact, it would be recovering it. And someone saw, as usual, the almost ghostly image of the CIA. The legality and constitutionality of the agreements were questioned.

The government of the Republic had maintained a firm and public stand denying all these inventions of the extremists. The press, which witnessed the signing, has also offered its ample support for the idea. One or two small publications, despite having tried to create a campaign against the station, have failed to find a responsive chord among the people, who are direct witnesses of how a good portion of our territory has no other choice than to see and hear the Nicaraguan electronic media. The new station offers a good opportunity for Costa Rica to have a nationwide radio station, Radio Costa Rica?, not subject to official guidance or government whim, and with the democratic guarantee of the members of the association. There is no doubt that it will be another pillar in the permanent struggle to preserve and perfect peace and freedom in democracy, as a reflection of social justice.

EL SALVADOR

PRESIDENT DUARTE HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

PA170109 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 2241 GMT 16 Oct 84

[President Jose Napoleon Duarte press conference with local and foreign correspondents at the Honor Room of the Presidential House in San Salvador on 16 October. Duarte is accompanied by Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes, minister of the presidency; Oscar Reyes, secretary of information for the presidency; and Major Alvaro Salazar Brenes, private secretary for the presidency -- live]

[Text] [Duarte] Dear friends, correspondents for the local, Latin American, and world press, allow me to greet you and place myself at your disposal to answer your questions regarding the national phenomenon.

At this time I will not speak much. Yesterday we met in La Palma and and I believe you will have many questions to ask, so I immediately put myself at the disposal first of all of the Spanish-speaking correspondents. I ask the foreign correspondents to excuse me for allowing the questions in Spanish to be made first.

[Moderator] Mr President, representing Mexico's NOTIMEX and EXCELSIOR, (Epimenio Ibarra). Mr (Ibarra), please.

[Ibarra] Mr President, in 1981 the French and Mexicans made a statement recognizing the groups up in arms in El Salvador as belligerent forces. Mr President, up to what point do yesterday's events in La Palma give truth to this statement? Is the Salvadoran Government recognizing the FMLN-FDR as a force with whom it is important to talk in order to reach a political solution to the problem?

[Durate] I want to make it very clear that when the French-Mexican statement was made I considered it as an intervention of other states in Salvadoran matters. This I will never allow because the decisions I am adopting are made by Salvadorans, in El Salvador, and for the good of the Salvadorans. This brings me to say that all Salvadorans admit the necessity of searching for peace with all who in El Salvador have chosen the path of violence, whether these people are from the extreme right or the extreme left. This is why we have sought the way to find a solution to the problems of violence and the quest for peace.

Yesterday's meeting was an effort of the Salvadoran people and the wish of the Salvadoran people. The decision to call and invite all those Salvadorans with whom I am interested in speaking to find the path for peace in El Salvador is my responsibility.

[Moderator] Mr (Francisco Brizuela Florez) of Accion en las Noticias [not further identified].

[Brizuela Florez] Thank you and good afternoon. Mr President, with your permission I wish to ask the following question to the Minister of the Presidency, a man who has a degree in political science, Julio Adolfo Ray Prendes. If in the past and in the history books Francisco Morazan is called the paladin of Central American unity, how would you describe Jose Napoleon Durate, constitutional president of the Republic of El Salvador and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, today?

[Rey Prendes] I do not think that I should be the one to give the president a title. Yesterday, in words and on banners the people called him the president of peace. God willing, this expression of the people will be the appropriate description for the president in his effort to achieve peace.

[Moderator] Mr President, (Joaquin Vals) of Barcelona's VANGUARDIA. Mr (Vals)?

[(Vals)] Mr President, 2 years, minus a day, ago in Mexico City the FMLN-FDR proposed the beginning of a dialogue with the Salvadoran Government. Do you believe that time was wasted during these past 2 years, that there has been useless bloodshed, or were the conditions not right?

[Duarte] I can see that you are up to date with your days and that you have counted them; I will give you yet another date and more days. Exactly 4 years and 27 days ago I also mentioned a dialogue and asked to meet with the FDR political sectors. At that time Mr Ungo answered that he did not talk to monkeys, that he would only talk to the owner of the circus. This may give you an idea of what the feeling of the subversion was back then. They also said that they would talk if we surrendered. This can show you how things were some time ago.

When I returned to the country following my exile, I found a country full of hate; a country where there was no respect for anyone; where all the Salvadorans distrusted each other; and where all the Salvadorans, speaking in general terms, spoke of destruction and death of one another. This had to change. This is a situation you no longer find in El Salvador today. This was an effort made throughout these years in an attempt to create an environment of detente that would make the worst of enemies sit at a table to search for solutions.

Therefore, to answer your question I can say that this has been a process in which we have all worked. We have worked while in the junta, through our political process, through the elections, by freely choosing a president, by being people against violence and expressing ourselves in favor of peace. We have worked to control the various external and internal factors that have had an impact on confrontation. Then, the day came when things were ready and the president of the Republic could extend an invitation, through this offer for peace, to the dialogue we held yesterday.

By using a somewhat English word, I could say that in this process the Salvadoran people, and I as their president, have established my own timetable [preceding word in English] for peace, my own process of time for peace in which the external and internal factors have an impact. However, I am trying to control these factors so that this process will be as soon as possible, as safe as possible, and in the best possible manner to achieve peace.

Just look at what yesterday meant. Today I was listening to a foreign newscast that stated: In a dramatic meeting where security was offered by the state, the Red Cross and the Green Cross [local humanitarian organization], two groups that had been in conflict for the past few years have met.

This is an achievement. It is a change, a process, that we are trying to continue. However, the effort does not end here. I must continue forward. There will be many other things included in the timetable that I am fulfilling. I have chosen several topics to be handled as priorities and faced one by one. Therefore, all of you who have been so anxious, expecially those who keep insisting on when, where, how, why, why not now, I wish to say that I am demonstrating with facts what I promised during the political campaign. I promised that I would have a government that would govern, a government that would make decisions, and a government that would do what had to be done to achieve peace. This is my answer to the dates that you mentioned.

[Moderator] Mr President, correspondent (Jorge Contreras).

[(Contreras)] Mr President, I will restate a question asked a short while ago. Some time ago the rebel groups were called attackers, bandits, and other similar descriptive words. Yesterday, we saw how General Vides Casanova spoke with the other men in uniform (?as a member) of the presidential delegation. Mr President, I would like to ask you if this means that the government has recognized the representativeness of those groups or if this is just an effort to achieve peace?

[Duarte] I wish to make it very clear that I am the president of the Republic based on absolute respect for the country's political Constitution. Our political Constitution states that there is an Armed Forces in the country and that the president is the commander in chief of the Armed Forces. Therefore, yesterday's meeting in no way recognizes any level of institutionalization of the situation that the rebels have tried to present, to obtain. You have stated that the purpose of this meeting was to achieve peace and I am willing to speak to anyone to achieve peace. I am not saying this today; I said this a year and a half ago when I addressed some technicians and professionals and spoke of a national dialogue. I said that I would talk with all sectors of the country, with all those who in one way or another could influence the achievement of peace. If I find the opportunity to convince a criminal to stop being a criminal and to become a good man, this is my duty. What we must create is social peace in the country.

In accordance with Article 3 on the president's responsibilities, this is one of my duties. The article says that all efforts must be put forth to seek harmony, peace, understanding, and the social organization of the country. That is my duty, my task. Therefore, yesterday's meeting can only be described as a sincere effort to fulfill my duty, to achieve harmony and peace. I am going to continue to do this. Maybe some will be surprised when I make a decision and act. They may begin to ask themselves where all of this came from and who gave the order. Well, it must be clear that I am the president of this country and I am here because I was chosen by the Salvadoran people. Gentlemen, this is important.

That is why the people elected me, to obey the Constitution, to abide by the laws, and to seek the achievement of peace. Those who did not vote for me are also expecting the same: that the president of the Republic governs according to the laws and the Constitution. I think we must fully understand this and not modify our outlook on the matter.

Nevertheless, we must add something because it would be unwise not to admit the truth. The truth is based on facts, and the facts are that there are guerrilla groups in the mountans, that they are terrorists and that there exist criminals who seek refuge in these groups to perpetrate crimes and murders based on misguided principles. These are facts, this the truth. [Words indistinct] which is also exerting pressure; this is also the truth. We cannot ignore this truth, or the pressure exerted to force our hand so that we adopt a decision to (?legitimize), to legalize, or to grant juridical status to an organization which has complied with the [words indistinct] in our nation. This organization which has complied with the [words indistinct] in our nation. This organization cannot be considered as legitimate. One thing is to admit facts, one thing is to admit the truth, and another is to accept the legality of things. For this, you must comply with the regulations, with the conditions.

If the FDR wants to become a legitimate organization, this can be done. They can create a political party with this name if that is their wish, and they can go to the Central Electoral Council and register. As long as they comply with the legal regulations; this is a fact. However, you can never legitimize a force that is trying to pass itself off as the armed forces, no matter how many legitimate ideologies they claim to have. Thus, it is important that you understand these differences. We must always base ourselves on facts, which is something quite different. I wanted to make this point quite clear so that there are no misconceptions or misinterpretations, because I am aware that there are some journalists who have been trying to misinterpret what really took place yesterday in our country. What really happened is that a meeting took place, upon my invitation, to seek peace. The two sides tried to find a road to peace. That is the truth. This must not be misconstrued or misinterpreted because it would be damaging for the country. We sought to achieve peace and any other thesis is merely aimed at stirring up trouble, so that we fight each other, thus undermining our efforts to achieve peace. I insist on this: We seek to achieve peace. The rest is superfluous.

[Moderator] Mr President, I now invite journalist Juan Jose Prado, 24 Horas Program, Televisa, Mexico.

[Prado] Mr President, good afternoon. Do you think that the fact that the guerrilla groups agreed to participate in political negotiations, that they advocated a democratization and changes, and that they came to meet with you without an extremist political position will represent an overwhelming blow to communist influence in Central America?

[Duarte] I believe that this would give us a different viewpoint about our efforts. If I start discussing viewpoints simply to be in the news or to participate in lengthy arguments, then [words indistinct] would be rendered useless.

We would not be able to achieve peace. We do not wish to deny that there exist stereotyped and different beliefs, viewpoints between the groups up in arms, with whom we met yesterday, and us, because these differences are profound and ideological. It is precisely the two sectors of [words indistinct] between whom these differences exist, who have sought a formula to find the road toward detente, to humanize this conflict.

One of the commanders, specifically Commander Cienfuegos, said that there exists a national consensus that we are shedding our own brother's blood. There exists a national consensus that the people want peace. I think that if we muddy the waters, with other ideas, we will be weakening our chances for success. This does not mean that we are not firm in our convictions. I suppose they will also outlined their positions with firmness. That is why I told you that during my speech to present our proposal, I also presented the political constitution. I gave each one of them a copy of the Constitution, so that they became aware of my responsibility. I cannot accept anything different from what is stated in the political constitution. We must find the right road for all of us within this scheme and [words indistinct].

[Moderator] Mr President, the next question is presented by Eduardo Vasquez Becquer, of NCA News.

[Vasquez] Mr President, people are concerned because they want to know the main demands and viewpoints discussed between the government and the rebels. Also, could you give us the current balance of the correlation of forces, both political and military?

[Duarte] I think there were no demands from either side during this meeting. We made an analysis and presented an offer for peace. I justified our ideological viewpoints, which you know very well gecause they were stated during my speech at the United Nations. The FMLN-FDR representatives also presented their viewpoints, their ideological concepts. They believe that the country has not changed; they believe that the conditions which prevailed in 1970, 1960, or 1979 have remained unchanged. Therefore, my statement at the United Nations, where I said that there is a new reality, was not the same argument used by them. Therefore, they advocated an overall solution; they said that they did not seek socialism or (?Nazism). Instead they advocated pluralism and the people's participation. Their concepts, arguments, and viewpoints included five basic points: social reforms, the country's economic recovery, international relations and dependence, the phenomenon of democracy, and the utilization of the country's political structure. They also discussed the war and the national uprising. They presented their viewpoints within these five points,saying that there must be an overall solution.

For our parts, we maintained, and I said this personally, that this overall plan for a solution is a idealistic concept and it demands paradise overnight; that they had to understand that there must be a process; that the country is undergoing a process of political, economic and social change; and that in each and every one of those areas this government, in only 4 months, has made changes, in each and every one of these four or rather these five basic areas.

Therefore, you can see the two concepts that were discussed at this meeting. We all agreed that the country cannot continue to have brothers shedding each other's blood, that we must seek a solution, and that we must make an effort to bring peace to our fatherland. It is precisely on this basis that we sought a path. We knew that in that first meeting we would not be able to find a solution in 3 or 4 hours to such an (?ideological) matter, in such a profound matter, in this war of such profound causes and crises.

Therefore, the logical thing to do there was to identify the basic principles and upon doing this to determine the next step, which was the path by which to continue searching for a solution to the problem seeking detente and seeking to determine what things can be done in the process that I proposed.

Therefore, even in this matter of the war, a process must be pursued. One cannot achieve a total solution overnight. That is why the document that you have read contains the phrase that it is necessary to study and seek a mechanism by which to humanize the conflict, humanize the war, and humanize the violence.

Thus, you can see that the entire theory of the process is based on the understanding that it is not possible to resolve the problem overnight and that it will be necessary to proceed gradually. This is what I proposed at the meeting; this is the major guideline of our thinking. On the other hand, we discussed and even mentioned specific steps suggested by the other party. So you can see the disposition on both sides to understand each other, to ask about the other's viewpoints frankly and firmly and at the same time to pave the way for the La Palma meeting to be a success.

Both sides realized that we could not leave that church with our arms folded, saying: We were unable to reach any agreement. We knew that if both sides had insisted that things be done their way and if each side had emerged from separate doors, the Salvadoran people would have been demoralized. We knew that the Salvadoran people who were out in the square and those who were listening to their radios throughout the country wanted a peaceful solution. That is why we were determined to have the meeting give the Salvadoran people a ray of hope. There had to be a source of hope for the Salvadoran people. For this reason, I ask all of the local and foreign newsmen not to destroy our people, not to add things that diminish the possibility of finding peace. You also have a duty, the duty of taking the message to the people because every time you release a report, that report carries a message. If that message includes a feeling of peace, it is positive; however, if a reporter wants to use language that will give him a prominent place in the newspaper by providing a sensational report that predicts confrontations between the two sides, that is evil, it is a crime against the feelings and the inclinations of the Salvadoran people. That is why I ask you newsmen to help us, to help the Salvadoran people by carrying the message of peace, not the message of conquest.

[Moderator] Mr President, I now recognize newsman Victor Avilez of LA JORNADA DE MEXICO.

[Avilez] Mr President, does the fact that the Contadera countries were not invited to the meeting of Central American countries in Tegucigalpa to discuss support for the Contadora Document mean that the countries are formally thanking the Contadora Group for its efforts and starting their own process for resolving the conflicts?

[Duarte] There you go again. We are making an effort. Just as we Salvadorans are making an effort inside El Salvador to resolve the Salvadoran problem among Salvadorans, I have proposed to the Honduran president that he invite all of the Central American foreign ministers so that we can try, among Central Americans, to solve Central America's problems in order to find peace among ourselves, to find detente among ourselves. This does not diminish other efforts that might be made at other levels. I am very grateful to Contadora and we are prepared to cooperate within Contadora. However, I think that it is much more important to ask the Contadora Group to meet with us when we, Central Americans, have made a political commitment to resolve the problem. The problem will not be solved with a proposal like the Contadora Document if the Central American peoples and the Central American governments do not agree with the Contadora viewpoints. No nation has the right to impose its viewpoints on another. That is why the path to understanding, path of detente, is the path of a meeting among those of us who are involved in the problem. All Central Americans are involved in the problem that is affecting our region.

I am concerned over the security and tranquillity of the Nicaraguan people just as I am concerned over the security and tranquillity of the Salvadoran people or the Guatemalan or Costa Rican peoples. Therefore, it is logical for us to meet. It is logical for those of us with the problem to be the ones to seek a solution. If the solution is not found at the level of the economy [as heard] ministers, I will call for a meeting of the presidents of the republics to seek a solution. If we do not find it, we must seek another level. What I wish to say is that only by political commitment can this be achieved. This is the accent, this is the style with which I am trying to govern. That is why we in El Salvador are trying to find a solution to the Salvadoran problems and that is why we have surprised those who maintain that we are receiving instructions from abroad because we are making decisions, because El Salvador now has a government that governs and it is making decisions. One of those decisions is that Salvadorans problems should be discussed by Salvadorans, without anyone else. They even tried to bring a personal friend into this matter, a person for whom I have great affection: President Luis Herrera Campins. I said no, not even him. This has to be among Salvadorans.

With regard to the Central American issue, we must first meet among ourselves to seek the solution by ourselves; to discuss between Nicaraguans and Salvadorans, between Hondurans and Nicaraguans, between Salvadorans and Hondurans; to seek the solution to the problem among ourselves. That is the path to true peace in which there are no impositions by one over others and in which all understand the problems of the others. That is my style of government.

[Moderator] President Duarte, in Spanish, from Italy [word indistinct], Giorgia Otin.

[Otin] Mr President, to return to La Palma, you proposed to the FMLN-FDR an agreement based upon peace and the Constitution, a constitution to which the left wing did not contribute. They abstained from the elections; they always criticized them. The agreement is also based upon the maintenance of the Armed Forces and all of the state institutions, which have been harshly criticized by the left wing. Do you think that you will arrive at an agreement upon these bases?

[Duarte] There are some arguments on this issue because some say that the left wing did not participate in the electoral process when they said that they would oppose the elections and tried to prevent the people from voting. However, I will not use this argument. What I have said is that my responsibility as president of the Republic is the Constitution and that I cannot go beyond the Constitution. I think this is clear. The constitution describes my limits as president of the Republic. This does not mean that they must accept all of the points in the constitution with regard to them, no. There are many points that I do not agree with either, but I respect them. I do not agree with the land limits, 245 hectares, established by the agrarian reform in the Constitution. I insisted on a 100 hectare reduction. However, I accepted the figure stated in the constitution which is 245 hectares. If I want to change the Constitution, the Constitution itself opens the doors for change. Therefore, if this sector, which today does not believe in the Constitution, wanted to change the Constitution, the Constitution itself provides them with the instruments to do that. These instruments are to participate in the elections, elect deputies, carry their propositions to the assembly and win the adoption of their propositions. By winning the adoption of their propositions, they will have gained the right to change the Constitution.

Therefore, we believe in the method that the Constitution establishes in order to correct this difference of opinions. What is important is that we discuss it; it is important that we find the path. If I were asked by the gentlemen of the FMLN-FDR if the Christian Democrats would vote to change the Constitution regarding this aspect of the area issue on the agrarian reform, I would say yes, of course, that we have no problem, that we would like the agrarian reform to be sweeping but that we must respect the pluralist system.

That we respect it although [words indistinct] the Constitution establishes a system. What we must discuss is if the sectors up in arms want to and are willing to accept that there must be a democracy in the country, as well as participation and pluralism. If they accept these three things, they must accept discipline, the rules of the game. Those rules of the game are called the Constitution. Therefore, this is the discussion that we will have, this is what we are going to discuss in depth as we go along, and this is precisely why we have called the meeting in November to discuss these points.

[Moderator] [Words indistinct] Mr President, Armando Segovia.

[Segovia] Mr President, the guerrillas speak of humanizing the conflict. Even in his formal message yesterday in La Palma, Cienfuegos spoke of this. However, while everyone was meeting in La Palma, in the eastern part of the country, vehicles were destroyed and there were a series of other guerrilla activities. They have also threatened to stop vehicle transportation as of the 18th [October]. What then, Mr President, is to be understood by humanization of the conflict?

[Duarte] Those were precisely my words at the meeting. I made them see that their global concepts and the reasons why they have led to a conflict, crisis, and violence are due to an oligarchic sector that dominates our country. Therefore, there is an international sector and there is imperialism. It seems that there must be a change in the country's structure. My question is: Who is to blame if the Salvadorans who board as bus any are taken off the bus, the bus is set afire, and a grenade is set off in the middle of the road? Who is to blame if the youths of 12, 13 and 14 years of age are kidnapped and taken by the guerrillas? Who is to blame for this? And the mothers who lose their sons on either side, who is to blame for this?

When Commander Cienfuegos said that there is national concensus on those responsible for the bloodletting among Salvadoran brothers, he was showing an understanding of the real dimensions and depths of the suffering of the Salvadorans who are not to be blamed for the phenomenon of hegemony, of power and imposition that our country has experienced for 50 years. It is not the fault of the child born today that 50 years ago a dictatorship was implanted in the country. However, this child, this woman, this man, are punished with hunger, with [word indistinct] destruction, with the burning of their [word indistinct], and are left without jobs and without opportunities. This is the true drama; this is the true problem that we must face. We cannot hide behind the statement that if paradise does not appear from one day to another there is no solution. We cannot say this in a global manner. We must walk, we must make a breakthrough, we must solve the problems, we must create a political, economic, and social process to face each and every one of these problems. This is the statement that I made not only to them yesterday, but to the entire nation. This is why I have been struggling for 23 years. You do not have to be a politician to serve the people, to face and solve the problems of injustice and poverty. We must solve them not with death or grief for the innocent, but with punishment for those responsible and our ability to solve the situation.

This is why I am putting forth all of my efforts; this is why my government is seeking all of those who misinterpreted the main concept of society and is making them think. This also applies to the extreme right; to all those who have not understood that their privileges cannot be defended on the basis of death, blood, violence, or death squads. The privileges of society and man must be defended with reason and we must struggle for them. They have every right to struggle for them and this is why we have proposed a pluralist structure capable of allowing everyone to show their feelings without being frightened.

Yesterday, we met to express our feelings and to talk; I do not know how many of you were there but those who were there could feel that there was fear. Fear on both sides.

I will not say that I was not frightened. I think we all felt some fear, but I went there to show that I am willing to give my life to achieve the fundamental objectives of freedom and justice. I entered and you saw that the troops remained behind. No one was armed. However, you did see armed rebels walking back and forth. I went regardless of whether they were armed because I went to show them that reason is more important than violence; that the efforts for peace surpass all actions of hate and resentment. That is why yesterday was very important. I tried to protect the sectors up in arms. I asked the Red Cross to put forth all of its efforts to protect them; however, I walked in without protection. You saw me walk down the street; my party companeros were my only protection. They gathered around me and placed their arms around me, saying: If they kill us they will kill us together because together we forged this destiny. All this shows is that we have a political determination to achieve peace in this country and are willing to do anything to achieve this peace.

[Moderator] Mr President, I now call upon reporter Rene Hurtado of EL MUNDO and Radio Sonora.

[Duarte] Wait a minute, I forgot something that must be mentioned. Amid the great tension that walking represented, my companeros and you, the members of the press, were my only protection. I appreciate this. When we were going in, it was very interesting to see how the cars kept coming one after the other giving me protection. Therefore, the role that all of you played was very important. On the night before the meeting and on the day of the meeting, you were able to realize that your presence there was important in seeking a balance. There were no policemen in the area; we only saw a group of children of the Green Cross and you. Therefore, on behalf of the homeland I wish to thank all of you for the important role you played yesterday.

[Moderator] Rene, please.

[Hurtado] Thank you. Mr President, there has been talk of your personal participation at the meeting with the FMLN-FDR. What role was played by General Eugenio Vides Casanova during the meeting with the guerrillas?

[Duarte] You must understand that this meeting was held at the invitation of the president of the Republic. The president invited those who have arms and their supporters to speak. Therefore, I chose four personal advisers. The four were either political or military ministers. Their role was to offer advice regarding what I had to do yesterday. That was their role.

[Moderator] Mr President, Mr Agustin de Gracia of ACAN-EFE.

[De Gracia] Can you tell me if you have had pressures or recommendations from the Contadora Group? Have these pressures or recommendations been favorable to this meeting?

[Duarte] None. There has been no intervention or pressure, no recommendation has been made. I have received phone calls from heads of state, ministers, the pope, presidents, and others. I received calls from some important personalities around the world wishing me success in my efforts and, yesterday, I received calls to congratulate me for the effort made. I do not think it is necessary to mention the names of those who called. However, I do wish to insist that this effort is not against the efforts being made by the Contadora Group. On the contrary, I believe that if we resolve the problem in El Salvador the Contadora Group will have one less problem and it would be easier for them. If Nicaragua could resolve its problem with a dialogue, with democratic elections, with political pluralism and participation, then we would throw a big party for Contadora to celebrate all of this.

Therefore, the Contadora Group has the role of good offices in the search for peace in Central America. It is the same role played by the OAS, the United Nations, the presidents of the various countries, our friends, all of the interested political forces, the pope, and all who promote peace. Therefore, I do not want anyone to think that what we did was to strengthen or weaken an effort that is praiseworthy and that must continue. While preparing ourselves for this meeting we were also preparing to present our recommendations on the Contadora Document as our contribution in the search for peace in Central America.

While I was doing this, I was also asking the Honduran president to call a Central American foreign ministers meeting to analyze the controversial and different issues contained in the draft Contadora plan. All these efforts can be carried out jointly because they are all aimed at seeking peace.

[Moderator] Mr President, Juan Alvarez of PRELA.

[Alvarez] Mr President, what are the similarities and the differences between El Salvador and Colombia in their pacification efforts?

[Duarte] To answer your question I would have to go into details. I think that what you are trying to ask me about is a political process and a detente process, which we are trying to achieve. There are large differences. We are the smallest country in America and Colombia is a large country. However, each country has its own [word indistinct] problems, its own internal and external factors, [words indistinct], which must be taken into consideration according to a specific concept and analysis to find the solution to the problems. What I am trying to say is that I do not want to (?import) anything, but neither do I want to overlook anything in seeking peace. I am going to resort to all of the experience in the world and I will make every effort to find the way to peace.

However, I cannot disregard the fact that our situation is different from that of Colombia. Therefore, it is illogical to try to follow the same system. I have always tried to find a similar solution, which consists of the political will of the government to have peace. There is no doubt that Belisario Betancur is making a tremendous effort to restore peace in his country and that Napoleon Duarte in El Salvador is doing the same. I think that this is the only aspect on which there is a similarity. Otherwise, I still say that each country has its own problems.

[Moderator] Mr President, Antonio Fuentes Simarra of Radio Cadena Libertad.

[Fuentes] Mr President, the Salvadoran people have witnessed the effort you are making on behalf of peace. Proof of this effort is the historic event which took place on 15 October in La Palma. My question is: Is it possible that after the talks there can be a truce between the rebels and the Armed Forces? Another question is: What will be the reaction of the Armed Forces? Another question is: What will be the reaction of the sectors opposed to the democratic process in El Salvador?

[Duarte] Regarding your first question, I don't think we can jump to simplistic conclusions. We are facing a situation that is not going to be solved overnight. You heard Mr Ungo when he came out of the meeting. The first thing he said was that you are all aware of the fact that the problem was not going to be solved overnight. Therefore, I think we must not jump to conclusions and you should not ask the president to start speculating on matters not based on reality. You must forgive me for not answering this, because I am not going to speculate. My duty is to seek solutions and not to place hopes in the heads of the people that cannot come true or to create discordant situations that can jeopordize the possibility for peace. I hope you understand that I am the one to make decisions and to do something. I want to ask you not to bring up this subject.

Regarding your second question, there are individuals who definitely do not approve of what we are doing. The survey carried out 3 days ago indicated that 87 percent of the population was in favor of this effort for peace and the talks. This means that 13 percent did not answer or gave a negative reply. Approximately 8 percent said no. This means that less than 10 percent of the Salvadoran people do not want this kind of solution and probably prefer the system of violence and war.

However, if you had conducted this poll 6 months ago [words indistinct] electoral [word indistince] because the platforms of Nationalist Republican Alliance [Arena] and the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] included these problems. The results of those polls would have really indicated that there were more doubts about the possibilities for reaching a solution through a peace offer.

However, the people are now more aware that this is the right path. That is why I say that not only those who voted for Napoleon Duarte for president, who are sure that his mandate was intended to [words indistinct] peace, but the overwhelming majority of those who did not vote for Duarte but who also want peace are pleased with our efforts and I think they will back us. There will be some who will not, and there are some who have talked and even issued death threats, like the ESA [Secret Anticommunist Army] which -- what is its name, the Salvadoran Anticommunist Army or some such thing -- threatened me with death, saying that they were going to kill me en route, that they were going to kill me [word indistinct]. I want to tell those gentlemen that I am not afraid of them; that I will continue this peace effort; that I will struggle against them; that I am going to pursue them because this country must stop the (?squads) of violence, the sectors that assassinate and murder irrationally.

Therefore, in this sense, I feel that the rational right wing, the conscientious right wing, the political right wing, the economic right wing, is rational, and demonstrated this through their support to the dialogue effort. However, there will always be a fickle and irrational right-wing sector that will think that it can keep the country on edge through assassinations, killings, and threats. I am struggling against this. It is against this background that I am looking for a solution of understanding and tolerance. I want to get hatred and rancor out of the minds of our people.

[Moderator] President Duarte, Carlos Rojas Gaitan of (CDC) News.

[Rojas] Mr President, you are offering political room to the guerrillas in your democratic design. What is your idea, that is, what sort of thing did you discuss with these people that will enable them to leave the mountains and return to San Salvador to participate in the next elections?

[Duarte] Well, I think I have outlined the fundamental concepts we discussed. I think I also reported yesterday that I gave them, and the world press as well, the document with the proposal for them to accept the peace offer and join the democratic process. One does not practice democracy through elections only. There is a great deal more to it than that.

Pluralism is not only [words indistinct]. For instance, we Christian Democrats took part in elections even under the dictatorship because we felt that this was the right means to create awareness among the Salvadoran people. Therefore, elections can be a means to create awareness, but they must also be a means to achieve democratization. I am offering the elections as a means to achieve democratization. My greatest hope is that they will agree to participate. However, if they do not agree to participate, a democratic process involves, at any rate, a number of factors, that is, democracy implies respect for freedom, respect for organization, respect for historial production. [as heard]

Even without [word indistinct] any political force can have this political space when one enjoys full democracy. It is from this standpoint that I think my proposal should be analyzed (?as) a peace offer.

[Moderator] Newsman Carlos Samayoa (Yebo) of AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE.

[Samayoa] Mr President, today there were international reports to the effect that you had originally planned to offer to hold the meeting that was held today [as heard] on 15 December and that you moved it ahead 2 months. Naturally, this has given rise to some speculation and even to reports that this was a sort of arrangement with the United States to help Ronald Reagan's campaign. Can you clarify this and tell us what were the actual reasons for advancing the meeting at La Palma by 2 months?

[Duarte] In a way, this seems to suggest that I am not the president of El Salvador. However, I am indeed the president of El Salvador, and I make decisions when I have to. That is why I said the word, "timetable" in English. I am making and El Salvador is making its own timetable to find peace.

What I can [word indistinct] explain is that in the analysis I made when I assumed the presidency, I included all of the factors to be dealt with before this meeting could finally be held. If other things [word indistinct] further on, I must do so.

I then established priorities and began gauging the intensity of each one of the actions. You saw me leave the country then. I went to the United States, Europe, and South America. All this was the frame of reference. That is why you saw me (?plunge) into a permanent effort to be near the Armed Forces, to work jointly with them, to form a serious work team in order to lay the groundwork.

That is why you have seen me arranging for the meetings of the political parties. I have asked my coworker and political minister of the presidency to take charge of this work. He has done a very good job. You have seen me meeting with private enterprise and the economic sector. And you have then seen me meet with the country's social sectors and the union. This was an effort to obtain a national consensus. These relations reflected the dimension of that moment.

If I thought of a date at the beginning it was not 15 December as you say. Furthermore, I thought that it would be disturbing if I made the offer during the election period. If I had made it on the date you indicate, everybody would have believed that I was making it in order to obtain votes during the campaign, which begins precisely on that date. That is precisely why it could not be that date.

It had to be done either before the electoral process or after the electoral process. I calculated that I would not be able to have everything prepared before the electoral process so I thought we would be able to do it in March, April, maybe June. However, circumstances showed me that things were moving along even quicker. I am sure that none of you are unaware of the tours I have made, to the United States and the reactions there; to Europe and the reactions there; and to South America and the reactions there. These were determining factors. I know you are all aware of the teamwork carried out by the Armed Forces, the reorganization of our security forces, and the reduction in the process of violence and abuse throughout the country. All of these were decisive determining factors and [words indistinct] inopportune to do it prior to this date.

What better date than 15 October, the day on which the Armed Forces chose to change the people's viewpoints regarding hegemony of power?

Our goal was to discuss three ideologies: the status quo of a backward structure, the armed revolution, and the democratic revolution. The Armed Forces advocated a democratic revolution and I am ready to participate in it because the goals reveal a spirit of liberation for the people and a sentiment of freedom and justice for the people. That is why I chose 15 October. When I decided that it had to be on 15 October, I sought the most appropriate time and conditions to reveal this. What better time and place for this than the one given by the United Nations to El Salvador on 8 October? That is why I chose 8 October, the date when the United Nations would grant El Salvador the right to speak. I went there and spoke on behalf of my country to reveal this decision. This is the story behind the decision.

[Moderator] We have a question from Leo Gabriel of Austrian Radio and Television.

[Gabriel] Mr President, reflecting a bit on the significance of a phrase included in the communique, of seeking mechanisms for humanizing the war, we logically come up with at least two possibilities. One might be establishing rules to control military actions; therefore, punishing those guilty of abusing their authority. This leads to my first question: Would you be willing to punish those Army members who are guilty of abusing their authority during the war? There is another possibility aimed at reducing the clashes until you reach the extreme in which neither of the two armies will shoot at the other. This would mean that the two armies would still exist. The second question is this: Would you be willing to allow for an FMLN-FDR military force if it is not belligerent?

[Duarte] Look, sir, [words indistinct] struggle.(laughter) The truth is that you want to create a conflict between me and the troops and I will not accept this. You will excuse me, I think that your question is too tricky and I will not answer it.

[Moderator] Mr President, this was the last question in Spanish. We will now have questions in a different language. First, Peter Arnett, of Cable News Network, CNN. [Murmurs heard in the background]

[Unidentified woman -- in English] I am going to ask for Cable News Network. Peter Arnett has left; he is very tired from La Palma.

[Moderator] Who are you?

[Unidentified woman -- in English] I said our correspondent is very tired from La Palma and he has left.

[Moderator] But...

[Unidentified woman interrupts -- in English] Ah, Mr Duarte, are you prepared in these negotiations to share political power with the left if it means it will being peace for El Salvador?

[Duarte -- in English] You have to remember that I said that my only power comes from the Constitution and comes from the elections. This is the only thing that I can share, the Constitution and the elections. If they are willing to share power they have to do it accepting the basis of the Constitution and accepting the [words indistinct] the elections. I have no other means and no other way because, otherwise, (?how can I run the presidency). If I am not president, I have no power to negotiate anyway. Anyone else?

[Moderator] Mr President, [Words indistinct] CNN. We have Bill Bushinger, from the National City Tribune.

[Bushinger] Mr President, one of the keys to [words indistinct] is certainly a cease-fire. I wonder if you can tell us what was discussed yesterday and what are the chances that it could be arranged by the time of the joint commission meeting in November? Can you tell us if a cease-fire... [changes remark] when would it come in your timetable?

[Duarte] Well, I will say that we did not discuss the cease-fire with the rebels. It was absolutely [words indistinct] of the Salvadoran Constitution concerning the cease-fire problem. Obviously, the concept that humanizing the [words indistinct] could cover up all possibilities. However, it must be done when the time comes, within this timetable.

[Moderator] Mr President, James Baldwin of THE WASHINGTON TIMES.

[Baldwin] Mr. President, will the conference in Tegucigalpa [words indistinct] represent a substitute for Contadora, a new process to replace Contadora?

[Duarte] [Words indistinct]

[Baldwin] Will the conference in Tegucigalpa represent a substitute for the Contadora process?

[Duarte] A substitute?

[Baldwin] Yes?

[Duarte] No. [words indistinct]

[Baldwin] Why?

[Duarte] It is not a matter of replacing Contadora with a new program. This is to strengthen an understanding among the parties to make the Contadora effort possible.

[Moderator] Pierre Collins of AFP.

[Collins] Good afternoon, Mr President.

[Duarte] Good afternoon.

[Collins -- in English] Please answer in English. I will ask it in English. Mr President, you have made very clear that as far as you are concerned the only road to peace is for the FDR is to inscribe itself as a legitimate political party under the Salvadoran Constitution. Now, they have made it very clear that that is not enough, that they want their share of power. You have made it very clear this afternoon that you want to persuade them, somehow persuade them that this is the road. They may not want to be persuaded; the implication is a lot more fighting until they are. How are you going to persuade them?

[Duarte -- in English] Let me say that your assumption is not correct because I am here to impose anything to anybody, that I am here to try and convince people. [sentence as heard] In my opinion, what I have said is that I have a limit. I, as president, have a limit and that limit is the respect of all the articles of the Constitution. That is my bible and I will not move away from this thing. This is my limit.

But I am not imposing this to anybody. Therefore, my effort is to try to explain, to try to convince, to try to get my point across, try to obtain a consensus, try to talk to people, [words indistinct] which will cover all paths. Now, this is my point of view, I believe you also have made an assumption that is not also true. They have not mentioned anything concerning sharing power at all. There was no one single word at that meeting yesterday about sharing power at all. So if you invent this assumption, you are not very correct, and your conclusions, obviously, are not correct. So, I do not know whether I answered you the question or have given you the information that you need, but I think that by saying that we did not discuss sharing of power, we did not present any points, because it was not the moment to do it, it was not the conditions set, it was just to discuss the basic things and to establish the mechanics of the first effort. [sentence as heard] And so we specifically said at the meeting that we were there to express the concepts and the views and the pattern. And I [words indistinct] I am here to offer you this. And that was it. From that point on how can we get together to start understanding each other [words indistinct] somehow.

[Moderator] Mr President, Scott Pollack of CBS News.

[Pollack -- in English] Mr President, two questions. First of all, in the wake of Monday's meeting what kind of military actions do you foresee in the near future? Will the intensity of the military operations we saw in the past several months continue or will there be a reduction in military activities as part of this peace effort?

[Duarte -- in English] That I can answer you very quickly by saying that the military is a problem of the state and therefore, I will not comment on it.

[Pollack -- in English] One further question. Yesterday for the first time the guerrilla leaders appeared on national television and, obviously, seen by thousands of Salvadorans throughout all over the country. Do you feel that this may have inadvertently given them a kind of legitimacy to put forth an image of themselves that might in some way be detrimental to the government? Let me put it this way; do you think the guerrillas, having made their [words indistinct because several people are speaking at the same time].

[Duarte -- in English] Oh, I think that violence is destined to failure. This is a chance for democracy and I am doing everything to strengthen democracy and my idea is that the solution is a democratic participation instead of a guerrilla participation.

[Moderator] Mr President, Robert McCann of THE WASHINGTON POST.

[McCann -- in English] Mr President, can you give us an idea of the kind of person that you intend to appoint to the mixed commission? What level will they be at, what sectors will they represent, and particularly, will there be a representative of the armed forces?

[Duarte -- in English] I don't think it is time yet, you have to wait 1 month. I will say it when the time comes. That is part of my timetable.

[Moderator] Mr President, Chris Carson of NBC Radio will ask the last question.

[Carson -- in English] Mr President, a few questions: First could you just explain very briefly what you think the significance of yesterday was, the meeting in La Palma? What do you think the significance of that historical act is?

[Duarte -- in English] I think that by just being there has a tremendous significance. By just sitting down and dialoguing has a significant purpose for peace.

By just hearing the demands of the people of this country, a way of seeking peace today [words indistinct]. But, of course, the conclusions are also another significant part of the process.

I think that yesterday is a historical moment. I think that yesterday opens the door and this is the reason why I found the solution, to send somebody to talk to them, but I decided to do it myself and in person because I wanted to make sure that this [word indistinct] must prevail. I wanted to give everything that I own and risk everything that I could, I put my life in that, in order to see this thing progressing. So I think that the people know this, that the whole country knows this, and the whole country feels it, and the whole country was happy yesterday. Yesterday when we were coming down, people in the road, in the little towns, with white flags, were happy about the results of this meeting. They knew that [words indistinct], but they have hope and the solution is important.

[Moderator] Thank you very much, gentlemen. Have a pleasant evening.

[Unidentified correspondent -- in English] Mr President, I want to know also if you have spoken to the guerrilla commanders and with Mr Ungo and Mr Zamora; if you have explained the changes and restructuring of the security forces and the interest of a limited use of power; if they agreed; if they felt things had changed; if they felt that things had gotten better?

[Duarte -- in English] I said that Mr Ungo in the beginning made a global analysis. He tried to demonstrate that my concepts [word indistinct] are not real, it was not reality. And he was saying this according to his argument. But Mr Cienfuegos, Commander Cienfuegos, was very specific in the answers and he expressed his opinion about it, and Commander Guardado expressed his opinions about it. I would say that, in general, my expressions and my explanations were not specific. That I was very [words indistinct] that when they requested that the high command be present that I did not do it because the general commander of the Army is the president of the country and that I was doing all those things that he would do and answer. [sentence as heard] And that the Army is obeying my instructions, and that the Army is doing what they have to do to comply with the Constitution of [word indistinct], and that the Army is supposed to know the process of democracy. I told that to them and there was no more to comment concerning this point. I will not comment [word indistinct] everything, but I think that I had the impression that they understood what we are doing and the changes that are being made, not only in the Army but in the whole and important process of democracy.

Well, thank you very much for everything.

OPPOSITION LEADERS COMMENT ON LA PALMA MEETING

Calles' Remarks

PA162156 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Salvadoran FDR Vice President Eduardo Calles has said that the intransigent position of Jose Napoleon Duarte's government was defeated, since he had to give up his publicity-minded attitude for a serious one during the talks that began yesterday in an effort to arrive at a peace agreement for El Salvador.

[Begin Calles recording] Duarte has agreed to meet with us, in talks between two sides: The FMLN-FDR on one side, and the government on the other. This is a clear recognition of the existence of two powers in El Salvador; it is a recognition of our fronts. Duarte has often insisted, even during his proposal at the United Nations and its subsequent handling, on not clearly referring to our fronts. The joint communique clearly mentions that there are two sides: The FMLN-FDR on one hand, and the Salvadoran Government on the other.

This is why we say that the meeting has been initially successful. In addition, from the beginning we insisted on raising this event from the show level, from the publicity and [word indistinct] level established by Duarte [words indistinct] and we raised the talks to a serious level. We think that this should be handled within a process that will enable us to have broad discussions, and give us the opportunity to arrive at satisfactory agreements. The agreements also mention the need to give continuity to this process. In other words, we managed to place the event on a higher level than the one that Duarte was trying to portray. What Duarte was trying to say was: Well, I'll go to La Palma. I'll be present to hear the guerrillas who supposedly wander around the country. His attitude was that of I come and I [word indistinct] and I pardon your life. We totally defeated his condescending attitude.

On the other hand, the framework that surrounded the arrival of our delegates at the meeting shows the high level of recognition that our front, in its struggle for the Salvadoran people, has achieved at international level. [end recording]

Eduardo Calles added that the interests of the people are not subject to negotiations because Duarte's regime, through the country's Army, has carried out many crimes against the people. He underscored that in El Salvador there will be no peace as long as the country does not achieve its real independence and as long as U.S. presence continues.

[Begin Calles recording] The goals we have clearly traced are in the interest of our people and meet the demands of our people. This is why we have said that we want peace. However, the struggle of our people is based on several very important demands. The same economic, political, and social structures remain. Duarte has said that there are changes in El Salvador; this is not true. It is not true that there have been advances and improvements, including advances in the fundamental rights of our people, like human rights. The death squads are still active. Even the government, at an institutional level, the Army, constantly violates the most fundamental right of our people, which is life. They bomb the civilian population, they use napalm against the civilian population. Another important aspect is that we do not believe that there can be peace without the recovery of our sovereignty, without our real autonomy. If the U.S. imperialism and the Reagan administration remain present in El Salvador, then we truly do not believe peace will be achieved.

This will give you an idea of the type of negotiation we can accept. We want peace and we have always said this. We are fighting because there is no other way to achieve the aspirations of our people. [end recording]

Ungo, Zamora Statements

PA161612 Paris AFP in Spanish 1458 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Panama, 16 Oct (AFP) -- Salvadoran opposition leaders Guillermo Ungo and Ruben Zamora described the dialogue with President Jose Napoleon Duarte begun on Monday in La Palma as a "serious" step toward ending the war currently afflicting that Central American country.

During his first press conference after arriving in Panama from San Salvador last night, Ungo said that it "is the first step, a very important step."

Ungo said that the second round of talks will also take place in El Salvador, on 15 November. To that effect, a mixed commission of rebels and government officials was created.

The Salvadoran opposition leader, who is also FDR president, said that differing opinions on many aspects were voiced, but regarding the dialogue there was "consensus" about starting and furthering it through negotiation.

He pointed out that although there were differences during the meeting, the two sides agreed on the need to humanize the war and to establish control mechanisms to put an end to the hostilities. However, neither of the rebel leaders would say whether that implied that a cese-fire would be in effect while the dialogue develops.

Zamora said that the meeting was held within a framework of gravity and mutual respect. He said: "What is important is that the two sides have opened a dialogue and negotiating process based on an agreement that the war must end."

Zamora said: "We are glad that there is a desire for peace." Finally, the two leaders said that this effort demonstrates the Contadora Groups's influence. The Group, which is composed of Panama, Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela, strives to create a climate for dialogue and negotiations as opposed to a military solution.

Cienfuegos' Remarks

PA162310 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2047 GMT 16 Oct 84

[By Mark Baillie]

[Excerpts] Miramundo, El Salvador, 16 Oct (LATIN-REUTER) -- Important guerrilla commanders today turned down President Jose Napoleon Duarte's proposal to participate in democratic elections and they added that the Salvadoran rebels will not put down their arms.

Ferman Cienfuegos, one of the participants in the historic meeting held yesterday between Duarte and leaders of the Salvadoran leftist guerrilla movement, said that "democracy cannot be achieved with traditional parties."

"The parties always defend special interests; our country needs one single front that represents the national interests," he added.

"It is ridiculous to think that our army (guerrillas) is going to put down its arms; we are not talking about ceasing the military actions," Facundo Guardado, another participant of the rebel faction in yesterday's talks, said.

The two guerrillas made these statements to newsmen in Miramundo, a mountain village, 2.3 km from La Palma, where the meeting took place yesterday at Duarte's invitation.

Yesterday, President Duarte submitted a document requesting an end to the guerrilla armed struggle and their participation "in honest elections with political parties and an equal, universal, and secret direct vote."

In the past, the FMLN and its political wing, the FDR, have asked to be included in a traditional government that will open the way to elections in which the left can

However, today Cienfuegos categorically rejected the western pluralist electoral system. "The FMLN-FDR will participate in elections, but democracy is not necessarily obtained by going to the polls," he added.

"Democracy begins with the participation of the individual," he said. He added that it would be necessary to appoint organizing commissions in the communities in order to establish people's organizations.

"Without the people's organizations, the people will think that democracy can be obtained by going to the polls; we do not think so," Cienfuegos said. Cienfuegos' statements seem to indicate that the guerrillas are planning to organize a political system along the same lines of Cuba or Nicaragua.

Regarding the government's proposals to the guerrillas to stop the armed struggle, Cienfuegos said: It is hard to put down your arms after 50,000 deaths and 17 years of struggle. We are trying to reach a point of agreement to establish a national army (comprising the Army and the rebel forces), but it really requires a lot of imagination to see how we can reach this point."

The negotiations to try to put an end to the conflict in El Salvador have been criticized in the past by Major Roberto D' Aubuisson, leader of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, which lost the elections by a narrow margin early this year to the Christian Democratic Party, PDC.

Cienfuegos said today that one of the conditions the guerrillas submitted for peace is to have D'Aubuisson tried for murder.

Cienfuegos, who yesterday said that the meeting opened the way to optimism, today expressed his doubt about Duarte's capacity to control the Army, which has been a dominant force for decades in El Salvador. "Duarte claims that he has control over the Armed Forces, but we do not have any proof of what he says," Cienfuegos said.

Cienfuegos rejected a U.S. report which stated that the guerrilla forces were weakening as a result of the tactical improvement in the Army of 42,000 men, which has U.S. support.

He added that Washington is backing the idea of these peace talks in hopes that a pause in the war will give the government forces time to recover from the rebels' pressure.

Dimas Rodriguez Interview

PA162159 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2029 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] San Salvador, 16 Oct (DPA) -- Guerrilla Commander Dimas Rodriguez said today that the U.S. Government "will try to obstruct the peace negotiations," between the government and the FMLN-FDR.

In an interview carried by a local radio station, the guerrilla leader, member of the People's Liberation Forces, FPL, Directorate, said that the agreement reached yesterday between the government and the FMLN-FDR in La Palma, Chalatenango Department, "must have been a disappointment for Reagan."

Dimas Rodriguez, one of the commanders that led the attack on the garrison at El Paraiso in December 1983 and on the Cerron Grande Dam last June, also said that the FMLN "is not interested in intensifying the war, but in finding a solution to it."

He added that the U.S. Government will try to increase the differences that exist within the Armed Forces regarding the dialogue and to obstruct the negotiations which should be resumed during the first half of November.

GOVERNMENT PROHIBITS NEWS ON 'DEATH SQUADS'

PA170403 Rome IPS in Spanish 0315 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] San Salvador, 16 Oct (IPS) -- The Salvadoran Government has prohibited the local press from publishing the communiques of the ultraright-wing armed groups known as the "death squads." Rodolfo Castillo, minister of interior and vice president, said that the measure was adopted because "this type of news hinders the efforts and desire of the government to secure peace." The government provision establishes that the media that violate the prohibition will have to pay fines ranging between $400 and $4,000.

The clandestine "Anticommunist Secret Army (ESA)" accused President of the Republic Jose Napoleon Duarte of being "a traitor to the fatherland" for participating in the dialogue with the left-wing guerrillas."

Government and rebel representatives met for the first time after almost 5 years of civil war in a township north of San Salvador yesterday to hold a dialogue on a possible solution.

The "death squads" have been blamed by groups connected with the defense of human rights for the killing of civilians linked with labor unions and peasant organizations.

The government asked the press to provide the names of the persons responsible for these items so that they can be penalized. According to a 1979 decree the newspapers are obliged to publish the names of persons who draw up these items.

NICARAGUA

REPORTAGE ON DANIEL ORTEGA STATEMENTS

Warns of CIA in Costa Rica

PA161605 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, charged last night that the CIA is transferring Soviet weapons seized in Grenada to counterrevolutionary forces based in Costa Rica.

Ortega made this statement at the end of the fifth meeting of the Nicaraguan-Costa Rican Joint Prevention and Supervision Commission with representatives of the Contadora Group countries participating.

Ortega added that these charges are being made to foil U.S. plans, but that despite this, the danger of a large-scale attack cannot be dismissed.

Ortega said that the CIA is transferring AK rifles seized during the invasion of Grenada, and is delivering them to counterrevolutionary groups based in Costa Rican territory.

After participating in the conclusion of the fifth meeting of the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan-Contadora Joint Prevention and Supervision Commission in Managua, Ortega said that the Reagan administration continues with its plans to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution.

[Begin Ortega recording] During this meeting with the commission, we discussed a number of protests that Nicaragua has made recently to the United Nations. Logically, some of these charges have been made in an attempt to prevent provocations.

In the past, Nicaragua has made charges which we could say have had positive results in halting U.S. interventionist policy in the region. We must consider the following: The charges made by Nicaragua regarding the plans to be carried out against our country beginning today, 15 October are related to U.S. plans with the support of Honduras and using Costa Rican territory, logically without authorization or permission from the Costa Rican Government, violating the Costa Rican Government's neutrality principles, and acting against the Costa Rican Government's neutrality principles. [Ortega repeats himself] In this manner, they have been working out their plans, also based on the assumption that Nicaragua would not accept the Contadora Document. Without considering this possibility, they thought that Nicaragua would be in a very difficult situation, and very much isolated internationally. They had hoped that Nicaragua would not accept the Contadora Document, in order to contend that Nicaragua was opposed to a peaceful solution, and therefore justify the continuation of the interventionist plans. Another reason for their choosing this date was that when the Contadora Group countries sent the proposed document, they noted that 15 October would be the deadline for Central American governments to (?express any objections) to the document. Another element is the upcoming elections in Nicaragua, scheduled to take place in the next few days, only a few weeks from now, on 4 November. [Words indistinct] conditions that would affect the electoral process through a large-scale interventionist action. We can say that the Nicaraguan charges have had a great impact on the U.S. and international public opinion, and the fact that Nicaragua has accepted the Contadora draft document has also had a great impact on international public opinion. The spport that the Contadora Document has received from Latin America, European governments, and the international public has also placed the U.S. policy toward Central America in a very difficult situation.

During the meeting of the joint commission, we stressed the fact that the United States has tried to create political tension between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, in order to make Nicaragua look like the aggressor, so that the United States could step in and come to the defense of the victim, in this case Costa Rica. We have submitted new information, which includes the transfer by the United States, through the CIA and its military agents, of AK rifles seized in Grenada after the brutal occupation of this sister nation. These weapons have been transferred to Costa Rican territory and delivered to counterrevolutionary forces. This action is aimed, among other things, at provoking a self-attack in Costa Rican territory. This possibility has also existed in Honduras, but in the case of Costa Rica it would have greater repercussions. For example, this self-attack would result in the death of dozens of civil guards, of several Costa Rican citizens, and logically, in view of the situation, a U.S. attack would follow.

We believe that after giving all these details to the joint commission, and in view that the Costa Rican side has shown interest and has promised to investigate the charges, it is important that we make them public. We believe that a public protest is one of the best weapons that any country has to confront such dark and secret plans as this one. Therefore, we have given details of the interventionist plans, which are part of the gloomy interventionist plans. This is not the first time that the CIA and the U.S. Government plan actions to overthrow a specific government, and therefore, no one should be surprised. [end recording]

Commander Ortega also criticized U.S. pressure to weaken the Contadora Group's peace efforts, a reality in the quest for peace in Central America. At the same time, Ortega announced that the Nicaraguan Government delivered a document in relation to the Contadora Document last night, since yesterday was the deadline for the Central American governments to make any observations on the peace proposal. The contents of the document will be announced in the next few days, Commander Ortega concluded.

Answers Opposition Parties' Attacks

PA160058 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Oct 84

[Text] Addressing over 2,000 people in Boaco, FSLN presidential candidate Commander Daniel Ortega reiterated the vanguard's firm position within the framework of the electoral process. Ortega also answered the excessive attacks of the registered opposition parties.

[Begin Ortega recording] We would like to ask the gentlemen in the registered parties the following questions: For instance, how would you solve the housing problems? How would you solve the transportation problems? How would you solve the problem of epidemics? If they had a magic formula, I think they would have given this formula to the revolutionary government a long time ago so that it could be implemented, as this would prevent further sacrifices on the part of the Nicaraguan people. The only thing they can do is attack the Sandinist front and attack the country's various problems; but they are incapable of making any coherent proposals and of saying, well, this is not working but we will make it work by doing this, this and this. They cannot say that because the registered opposition parties and those that did not register have something in common. Most of those parties are much older than the FSLN. Some of them have been in power in Nicaragua, taking turns with the liberals. Here in Nicaragua the conservatives took turns in power with the liberals. And what have the conservatives done on behalf of the Nicaraguan people? What have they done on behalf of the peasants, the workers, the laborers? The Independent Liberal Party [PLI] is older than the FSLN. It was founded in 1944. What has the PLI done? Did the PLI perhaps lead the people in overthrowing the Somoza dictatorship? [crowd shouts: "No!"] [end recording]

Commander Ortega reminded the political parties of the position they assumed during the harsh struggle against the Somozist dictatorship when they abandoned the country, waiting for the FSLN to destroy the dictatorial government and leaving its repressive body, the National Guard, intact.

[Begin Ortega recording] It is only now that they come to us delivering these speeches, those in the Democratic Conservative Party, the PLI, the Socialist Party, the Communist Party, the People's Action Movement [MAR] and the Popular Social Christian Party. They should refresh their memories. Let them refresh their memories and remember their vacillating positions during the struggle against Somoza's dictatorship. They should stop trying to deceive the people because even if they were in the government they would be unable to (?confront) the problems encountered by the Nicaraguan people. The problems (?we face) in the economic, housing, health, transportation, and other areas will be gradually solved with the passing of time. They will be solved to the extent that we develop the country's economy. They are problems that will be solved to the extent that we implement an agrarian reform because an agrarian reform means production; and agrarian reform means beans, corn, rice, basic grains, sorghum, cotton, and coffee. Agrarian reform means production and this takes time. This is something that the peasants, who for the first time in history are becoming landowners, know better than anyone else. [end recording]

Later, the Sandinist leader responded to the opposition parties' illogical attacks against the patriotic military service. He described this position as very delicate, considering the country's grave situation of aggression.

[Begin Ortega recording] If we end the patriotic military service in Nicaragua, that is, if we put an end to the defense of the revolution, it is true that the youths will return to the cities, but the Somozist guards will enter the cities and we will have to confront the Somozist guards and the Yankees here in the cities. Therefore, what are we currently doing? We are stopping the Somozist guards and the Yankees at the border zone. That is where we are stopping them.

The people who are attacking the patriotic military service should be more careful because it is all right if they talk demagogically about the transportation situation saying that they will solve the transportation problems, or that they will resolve the supply problems in December or quickly handle the housing problems, or that they will solve all problems. They can make promises just as they did for over 100 years here in Nicaragua because elections were held in Nicaragua in the past. However, what kind of elections? Only the liberals and the conservatives participated, taking turns in power in order to exploit the working people. The fact that there was a liberal government one day and a conservative government the next in no way benefited the Nicaraguan people. The peasants were similarly exploited. So, they can talk demagogically about all these things but they should not talk demagogically about the patriotic military service because in that case they would be attacking national security.

Let those leaders of the registered and nonregistered political parties, as well as those who defend them in the local media or who identify with them from some church here, realize what would happen in Nicaragua if the counterrevolution were to win. Let us just imagine what might happen in Nicaragua if the counterrevolution were to win, backed by the Yankees, and if suddenly we saw the criminal guardsmen returning to our cities and rural areas. What would happen? They would kill all of the popular leaders, put an end to agrarian reform, give the land back to the large landowners, and dispose of all of the measures promoted to organize the workers. [end recording]

Finally, Commander Ortega urged the people gathered there to vote on 4 November and to continue fighting for peace.

[Begin Ortega recording] We are sure that this revolutionary process will be ratified on 4 November and that the Nicaraguan people's votes will peal, just as the bells are pealing right now here in Boaco. [applause, shouts] [end recording]

Calls Weapons Transfer 'Sinister'

PA160433 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0309 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Managua, 15 Oct (ACAN- EFE) -- The Nicaraguan Government presented data today on the transfer of AK rifles by the United States to Costa Rican territory to train the counterrevolutionary guerrillas, Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government, has announced.

The documents were released to the Border Prevention and Supervision Commission made up of the representatives of Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and countries of the Contadora Group which held its fifth session here.

According to the foremost leader, the AK rifles taken to Costa Rica "Without the government permission of Luis Alberto Monge's government, are the similar to that which the U.S. Army used in the intervention on the Caribbean island of Grenada.

Ortega stated at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center of this capital, where he met with the commission, that these weapons will be used by the mercenary forces for "self-inflicted attacks" that would cause the death of Costa Rican Civil Guardsmen.

The Sandinist leader stressed that these facts are part of the plans of the Reagan administration to launch a "large-scale offensive" against Nicaragua as of today, 15 October. In this manner, according to the Sandinist leader, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) "will mount its intervention against Nicaragua," after provoking tension between the Government of Costa Rica and our country.

The leader emphasized that public denunciation is a country's main weapon for responding to "sinister plans."

However, he said that the charges that have been made and the fact that the denounced actions have not taken place does not mean a lessening of the danger of a "large-scale attack" on Nicaragua.

The commission is charged with studying the incidents that have occurred along the 320-km border between the two countries.

The fifth meeting of the commission, which was created in Panama on 15 May, also discussed reports of incidents on the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan border in June and later on this year.

The Costa Rican delegation was headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Jorge Urbina, while that of Nicaragua was led by Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera.

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on 15 November in Costa Rica. The commission has not met for the past 3 months. In its fourth session, the participants had agreed to speed up the mechanisms of the commission in order to reduce border incidents as much as possible.

On El Salvador, Brandt Visit

PA161558 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1438 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega, interviewed by unidentified journalists on 15 October; no place given; broadcast in progress -- recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] ...To make observations and to sign the Contadora Document, did Nicaragua deliver any official document to the Contadora governments?

[Ortega] This evening we will deliver another document, and we will make it public in the next few days.

[Reporter] Regarding the meeting that took place today in the town of La Palma, Chalatenango Department, [El Salvador], do you think that this alters the situation in Central America? What variants have been created by these negotiations? And how does Nicaragua view this dialogue?

[Ortega] I do not want to fuel expectations, but I should say that it looks as though, in spite of the policy of force, war, and destruction that the United States has wanted to impose in Central America, the desire for peace and peaceful solutions by the people is winning. This is made evident by the Contadora peace act. This act is a reality, although efforts are being made now to weaken it.

Another evidence is the dialogue that is taking place in El Salvador. This dialogue was proposed many years ago by the Salvadoran revolutionaries and has been supported by the Nicaraguan Government. The dialogue does not, of course, have the support of the rightist, oligarchic, and reactionary sectors of El Salvador.

[Reporter] I have two questions: Some reactionary and conservative sectors are saying abroad that it is possible that Nicaragua will hold a similar dialogue with the counterrevolutionary groups, thus trying to compare them with the FMLN. Could you comment on this? My other question is: How do you evaluate Mr. Willy Brandt's visit?

[Ortega] These are two very different situations. This is very clear. The Salvadoran revolutionaries were struggling in El Salvador prior to the victory of the revolution in Nicaragua. Had the Nicaraguan revolution not triumphed, the struggle in El Salvador would still exist, just as the struggle in Nicaragua would still exist had the revolution not triumphed in Nicaragua. Therefore, the struggle of the Salvadoran people responds to a real and specific situation of social injustice and exploitation. On the other hand, there is the situation in Nicaragua, which broke free of the Somozist dictatorship. The U.S. Government came and created an artificial force with the Somozist guards, and thus began a permanent war against the Nicaraguan people. This is an artificial force that exists because of U.S. support. If U.S. support for that force ceased, the counter-revolutionary force would disappear, because it is completely artificial. It does not have any popular or real support.

Regarding Willy Brandt's visit, we believe it has been important because it made evident the attitude of the top leader of the Socialist International toward the Nicaraguan process. His visit has been a gesture of confidence in the Nicaraguan process of democratization and institutionalization of the revolutionary process, in spite of limitations and sabotage. Nicaragua's good will has been demonstrated, and Brandt has been able to witness this true situation. He was very correct when he stated, citing a Chinese proverb, that it is better to visit a place once than to hear 100 reports about that place. We believe Mr Brandt's visit has been very positive and very favorable for the efforts we are making for democracy, pluralism, nonalignment, and the revolution in Nicaragua.

FRG'S BRANDT ARRIVES FOR 2-DAY VISIT

PA132000 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Oct 84

[Text] The president of the Socialist International, Willy Brandt, has arrived in Nicaragua. He was welcomed at Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport by Commander Bayardo Arce and members of the revolutionary cabinet and the Sandinist assembly. Brandt arrived this afternoon from Costa Rica aboard a private plane. Brandt and Arce reviewed a Sandinist People's Army honor guard and Brandt was presented with a bouquet of carnations. He shook hands with all of the revolutionary leaders, Foreign Ministry officials, and cabinet members present.

Brigade Commanders Julio Torres and Omar Cabezas were also at the airport, as well as Commander Dora Maria Tellez, Companero Carlos Perdomo Chamorro, Deputy Commander Enrique Smith, and FRG Ambassador to Nicaragua, Horst Heubaum. After the welcoming ceremony, Brandt was accompanied to the protocol room by Commander Arce.

Today's agenda will keep Brandt very busy. Brandt, who was invited by the FSLN, will stay in Nicaragua for 2 days. After meeting with revolutionary leaders at the protocol room, our distinguished visitor will attend an informal dinner at a local restaurant, accompanied by government junta member Sergio Ramirez Mercado and Sandinist assembly member Companero Julio Lopez, among others.

Brandt's agenda also includes laying a wreath at the Carlos Fonseca mausoleum tomorrow morning. He then will meet with Commander Arce at the FSLN Secretariat. Brandt is scheduled to meet with the registered parties' presidential candidates at the FRG Embassy from 1600 to 1900 tomorrow. Some Catholic Church leaders might also be present at this meeting. Tomorrow evening, Brandt will be granted a honorary degree at the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua auditorium. The ceremony will be attended by Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction.

Meets Cruz, Discusses Elections

PA141543 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0158 GMT 14 Oct 84

[Text] Managua, 13 Oct (ACAN-EFE) -- All possibilities that the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board (CDN) will participate in the 4 November elections "are closed," Arturo Cruz, the top leader of the opposition alliance, said today. An official statement to this effect was released by Cruz after the leaders of the Coordinating Board concluded a 1-hour interview with Socialist International President Willy Brandt.

"We have used every means to express our willingness to participate in the elections with guarantees," Cruz said upon leaving the FRG Embassy here, where the meeting took place. "I believe," Cruz added, "that the FSLN, through Commander Daniel Ortega, has been sufficiently clear in saying that all possibilities are closed," referring to the opposition's participation in the upcoming elections.

According to Cruz, "since the Rio de Janeiro talks, all possibilities have been closed" for the Coordinating Board to participate in the elections for president and legislators. At the beginning of the month and at the Socialist International's recommendation, Cruz met with Commander Bayardo Arce in Rio to study the possibility of the CDN's participation in the elections, but the initiative failed. However, the top CDN leader noted that the alliance will continue struggling for peace in Nicaragua. He added that the struggle will be "civic, political, and peaceful." Cruz affirmed, "We shall never do anything that can be seen as subversive or as a provocation of any kind." Cruz denied that he had considered resigning as the leader of the CDN, pointing out that he continue to "fully identify" with the ideals of the Coordinating Board.

The meeting with Brandt was also attended by Adan Fletes, Luis Rivas Leiva, Augustin Jarquin, and Mario Rappaccioli, leaders of the Social Christian Party, Social Democratic Party, and Conservative Party of Nicaragua.

The CDN also includes the Constitutionalist Liberal Party, as well as the non-Sandinist labor unions and a good percentage of the private enterprise.

Brandt refrained from making any statements to the press, but he accompanied the opposition leaders to the door of the embassy to bid them farewell.

Meets Candidates

PA141747 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 14 Oct 84

[Excerpts] Socialist International President Willy Brandt last night received the degree of doctor honoris causa from the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua [UNAN] at a very special ceremony held in Auditorium No 12 of the Ruben Dario university building, with over 800 people in attendance. The degree was conferred on Brandt in recognition of his long career of struggling for peace and social justice.

During the event, the distinguished guest was accompanied by Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the government junta; Commander Bayardo Arce Castano; Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, and UNAN rectors at the Managua and Leon branches of the university, Dr Humberto Lopez and Octavio Martinez Ordonez, respectively.

When Brandt and the revolutionary leaders entered the building, they received a prolonged ovation from the students, workers, representatives of mass organizations, and special guests, who chanted: We want peace, we want peace. [passage omitted]

Yesterday, Brandt met with the presidential candidates for the political parties registered in the electoral process, Msgr Pablo Antonio Vega, president of the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference, also attended this meeting, held at the FRG Embassy in Managua. After the meeting, it was learned that the leaders of the so-called Coordinating Board had given Brandt a letter thanking him for his activities in Rio de Janeiro.

Holds Press Conference

PA152144 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1619 GMT 14 Oct 84

[Willy Brandt, president of the Socialist International, SI, press conference at the Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport in Managua -- live in English and German with passage by passage translation into Spanish; translated from Spanish]

[Excerpts] [Brandt] Ladies and gentlemen of the press: These are memorable days in difficult times. I am most grateful to those who are helping me to understand a good deal more about the (?problems of this) country and who are making this a pleasant trip. As a whole, the situation in and around Nicaragua and Central America is a serious one. However, this situation is not without hope and not without positive perspectives.

Within the days ahead, Contadora may become an element of stability and peace. In El Salvador, the process might (?therefore), take a step toward organized peace. Nicaragua is still undergoing tremendous pressures. [Passage indistinct] and create better conditions for peace.

I am deeply impressed with the desire for peace [words indistinct]. I am also impressed by the tremendous development problems. I am impressed [words indistinct].

In addition to all of the other problems here in Nicaragua, (?perhaps the most serious one) deals with [words indistinct]. I believe that the countries that are as economically weak as Nicaragua should negotiate a moratorium in connection with their indebtedness. I also think that Nicaragua needs aid against discrimination in the areas of trade, economics, and (finances). Also, Nicaragua obviously needs help against the tendencies of intervention (?here).

You know that while we were in Rio 2 weeks ago an attempt was made, not by me but it was made by people of this country and friends of this country, to expand the base of political participation in this country. This did not work out. There was nc chance to [words indistinct]. However, in my talks with the (Sandinists) and with the parties participating in the elections, and even in the talks with others who are not participating, I learned that after 4 November, Nicaragua will be (?as it is now). Everywhere I found a high level [words indistinct] future of the nation, the future of Nicaragua.

[Cabrera] Luis Cabrera, La Voz de Nicaragua. You say that within Contadora there can still be hope for Central America and that there can still be prospects. We want to know if there can be hope and prospects when the U.S. administration still refuses to sign the Contadora Document. We also want to know if the Socialist International president feels that the U.S. Administration's signature on the Contadora Document is necessary.

[Brandt] Well, as the French foreign minister said in San Jose, the United States is a very powerful country, of course, but it is not a direct [word indistinct] of the Contadora process. Neither is the United States part of Central America, yet I am very much in favor, if possible, of influencing the U.S. Government to make it support the Contadora process.

[Question] I am [name indistinct] from Hungarian television. The Nicaraguan Government and the opposition agree on one single thing. The Managua newspaper LA PRENSA said 2 days ago that you, Mr President, are a leading European humanist. A few days earlier a Catholic (?writer, Dan Green), said: The Holy Father is afraid for Latin America because of liberation theology, and [words indistinct] is afraid for Latin America but does not know exactly why. As a European humanist, Dr Brandt, and as Socialist International president, what are your hopes and desires for Nicaragua, Central America, and Latin America, and what do you think about the situation in Nicaragua? Can it represent a good [word indistinct] for Europe, particularly Eastern Europe?

[Brandt] I am going to answer this question in German for our Hungarian friends. I don't think that I should comment on (?statements) by the pope, the Catholic Church, or the proponents of liberation theology. However, during my trip I have had interesting conversations on the subject. I also believe that I should not get too close (acercarme demasiado] to President Reagan. He is involved in a difficult electoral process and does not need my comments.

Concern over Nicaragua and the region is prompted by the temptation of an intervention, as I have mentioned before, and also by the mistaken belief that one can solve economic and social problems with violence. If one could leave Latin America alone with its vast financial problems and the resulting difficulties, I believe that the best answer would lie in a high degree of Latin American cooperation.

Second, although there is a tendency to overestimate things in Europe, I believe that Europe could make more serious commitments to Latin America. Not only with words, but by really making an effort to more closely cooperate with Latin America.

[Question] [Name indistinct] from the Agencia Nueva Nicaragua. Here you had the opportunity to meet with the different political sectors to discuss the political process. I would like you to give us your impressions regarding the elections in Nicaragua, the conditions under which these elections are being carried out, and the legitimacy of [words indistinct].

[Brandt] Do you recall and did you understand my conversation with the bishop?

[Question] Yes.

[Brandt] The elections were not discussed in my talks with the bishop; we discussed [word indistinct] As you all know, the political parties do not have coinciding viewpoints. This is not a surprise. Some are participating in the electoral process; others are not registered. Aside from this, I believe that the electoral process will be a step into Nicaragua's future.

[Question -- in English] I am [name indistinct] from the BBC of London. Could you be more specific about the prospects for national dialogue in Nicaragua and could you identify for us what you see as the principal obstacles to such a dialogue?

[Brandt] The question was regarding the dialogue. As far as I understand, from the viewpoint of the FSLN, and the commander can correct me if I am wrong, the dialogue represents something that goes beyond the elections.

I think that there also will be talks between parties in the days before the elections, but I understand that what is being called the national dialogue goes beyond this and is going to have a great deal to do with the problems of the future constitution. [Words indistinct] electoral process, I understand that they wanted to go even further, raising questions of principle. Of course, during such a short visit I could not go into this in depth, but it was remarkable that the subject of the national dialogue played a role in various talks I had here yesterday.

[(Horacio Ruiz Pabon)] (Horacio Ruiz Pabon) from the Managua newspaper LA PRENSA. Mr Brandt, it is common knowledge that you sent a telegram to Commander Daniel Ortega and to Dr Arturo Cruz urging them to continue the dialogue that they started in Rio de Janeiro regarding the participation of all political forces in the 4 November elections. While here in Nicaragua, what obstacle have you encountered that would prevent the continuation of this dialogue?

[Brandt] As I tried to say in my opening statement, the attempt which was made in Rio could not be discussed again. Dr Cruz gave me a signed list of principles that were discussed during the talks in Rio. That was on 13 October. However, the train left the station on 3 October. Commander Daniel Ortega was in the United States when he received my message. When we met yesterday he stated in a more formal way that for various reasons, which he cited, he and his colleagues thought it was necessary not to make another change in the election schedule.

[(Leo Gabriel)] (Leo Gabriel) of the (?Asia) agency and Swiss television. Many people believe that the probability of U.S. intervention in Nicaragua will depend on the degree of credibility of the November elections. Now, after having become acquainted with the electoral [word indistinct] and with your knowledge of current international affairs, do you believe that an intervention is less probable?

[Brandt] Independent of the elections, a U.S. intervention would have very extensive repercussions in Latin America and in Europe, and, I believe, in other parts of the world. I hope that those who are shouldering this responsibility will bear this in mind.

For this reason, my counterparts here in Nicaragua feel that the electoral process is very important and do not want to change the agenda or the date for the elections. I hope they are doing the right thing.

[(Miguel Zamora)] (Miguel Zamora) from (?NOTIMEX). I would like to ask one question. The parties that are in the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board (CDN) have repeatedly said that the fact that they are not participating takes away the elections legitimacy. How does Dr Brandt feel about this?

[Brandt] Based on my experience, only those who want to participate in elections will do so. What is very important in the electoral process is whether these will be the last elections to be held. I believe that in future elections there will be other political forces; but, how can one know this? This possibility will be determined by the historical and political conditions of this country.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON VISIT BY WILLY BRANDT

'Lengthy' Meeting With Castro

FL161140 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, party first secretary and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, and Willy Brandt, president of the FRG's Social Democratic Party and of the Socialist International, have held a lengthy and cordial meeting at Havana's Palace of the Revolution.

They extensively discussed various matters pertinent to the international situation, especially Central America, southern Africa, and economic relations and cooperation, important factors in preserving world peace. Fidel and Brandt also studied the Third World's struggle for the just aspirations of independence, sovereignty, self-determination, and full social development. Fidel Castro later held a reception in honor of the president of the Socialist International, who is in Havana fulfilling an invitation by Cuba's principal leader.

Holds Talks With Rodriguez

FL161406 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Socialist International President Willy Brandt met yesterday with Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Politburo member and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers. In statements to reporters, Brandt said he could not believe people in Washington would be foolish enough to invade Nicaragua. He also called for the signing of Contadora's peace plan without changes, as an important way of arriving at solutions for Central America. He praised Mexico's participation in the development and presentation of the peace plan.

Comments To Reporters

FL162007 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1903 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Willy Brandt, president of Socialist International and of the German Social Democratic Party, noted in Havana his agreement with Cuban President Fidel Castro on the need to find a peaceful solution to the Central American crisis. In statements to reporters before he left for Mexico City, Brandt said he and Fidel both thought it was important to end the arms race. He also emphasized international cooperation.

Brandt added: We agreed that we must contribute to the progress of less-developed countries and especially to the fight against hunger in the world. Fidel referred on several occasions to the report on North-South politics that bears my name. He helped me determine what specific contributions in the education and health care materials field the less-developed countries can offer.

TALKS BEGIN WITH MONGOLIA; BILATERAL TIES DISCUSSED

FL161312 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Official talks between delegations from the Foreign Ministries of Cuba and Mongolia have begun in Havana. The delegations are headed, respectively, by Isidoro Malmierca and Mangalyn Dugersuren. The international situation and current developments at the 39th UN General Assembly session were discussed. They talked about the two countries concurrent views on such matters. Bilateral relations in the political, economic-cultural, and scientific-technical areas were analyzed. Stressed was the mutual desire to continue strengthening relations between the two socialist countries.

AMBASSADOR TO GDR MEETS WITH HONECKER

FL161250 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] The GDR's top leader, Erich Honecker, has met in Berlin with Cuban Ambassador Julio Garcia Olivera, who has ended his assignment in the GDR. Honecker said that close relations between the GDR and Cuba had continued to develop since the three meetings with Cuba's chief of state and government, Fidel Castro. He added that the 1980 bilateral accord of friendship and cooperation had provided a solid foundation for this development, which has made possible fruitful ties and multifaceted benefits for the two countries.

PAPERS EXCHANGED WITH KAMPUCHEA ON CULTURAL TIES

BK150649 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0420 GMT 15 Oct 84

[Text] Phnom Penh, 15 Oct (SPK) -- The exchange of ratification documents on the cultural cooperation accord between the PRK and Republic of Cuba Governments was held in Cuba on 12 October. Long Visalo, Kampuchean ambassador to Cuba, and Pelegrin Torras de la Luz, Cuban deputy foreign minister, signed the papers.

Pelegrin Torras de la Luz praised the developments in all fields, in particular the cultural field, scored by the Kampuchean people that he had noted during his visits to Kampuchea. In response, the Kampuchean ambassador stated that the Kampuchean party, government, and people thanked the Cuban party, government, and people for their assistance and aid to Kampuchea's just cause since its liberation from the genocidal Pol Pot-Ieng Sary-Khieu Samphan regime, lackeys of the Chinese expansionists and hegemonists. He stressed that this cultural cooperation is further evidence of the assistance Cuba provides to Kampuchea.

SALVADOR SIDES END FIRST ROUND OF DIALOGUE

PA161947 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] The dialogue between Salvadoran guerrillas and government representatives led by President Jose Napoleon Duarte in the Salvadoran village of La Palma has ended after 6 hours of talks. San Salvador Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas, who acted as moderator at the talks, read a joint communique in which the two parties expressed their wish to create a committee to review each side's proposals. It was also agreed that a second round of talks will be held in November.

Commentary on Havana TV

FL162045 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1237 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Commentary by Francisco Ramirez and Javier Rodriguez]

[Excerpt] [Ramirez] El Salvador is the smallest country in Central America with little more than 21,000 square km and a population of 5 million. For 5 years El Salvador has been waging an unending battle for its definitive liberation. La Palma in the Chalatenango Department has occupied the first page of international news since the talks between Christian-Democrat President Jose Napoleon Duarte and the representatives of the FMLN and FDR fronts began. These conversations were held behind closed doors with an open agenda and in a sober and respectful climate, according to a statement by Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas. He read a communique including the five points of agreement reached during the talks.

The five points include the scheduling of another meeting in November. During the meeting the guerrilla leaders submitted some 30 proposals including an immediate end to government military operations and air raids over civilian objectives, a wage increase for workers, the freeing of prisoners, and the trial of war criminals. It must be stated that the guerrillas said from the beginning that this was a first step, the beginning of a dialogue. It is the start of a process to achieve peace. They also warned, as it was noted subsequently, that there are military interests wanting to obstruct it.

President Duarte said this was a positive encounter. Guillermo Manuel Ungo, president of the FMLN, said they had reached an initial agreement that is satisfactory, one that makes an optimistic view of our country's future possible. However, Ungo also warned that many steps remain in which the main role should be played by the Salvadoran people who are struggling for peace with social justice.

[Rodriguez] I believe the La Palma meeting logically aroused great national and international attention. This is logical because every effort for peace is very important, especially in a nation such as El Salvador which for years has been enduring the horrors of war, a war imposed on it not only by the excesses of the national oligarchy, but by foreign involvement. In this case, the United States is responsible for the Salvadoran people's suffering all these years.

It must be said that the dialogue that took place yesterday in the La Palma church has a number of important aspects. The first one is an expressed and clear acknowledgment of the combativeness and importance of the revolutionary movement in El Salvador, which not only has attained great victories in the military field, in the battlefield -- it controls a good portion of the national territory -- but also from the point of view of the international political scene where it has received international political support because it seeks the return of El Salvador to a state of rights, to a more just state. In other words, it defends the most cherished goals of the Salvadoran people.

There is another aspect that needs to be highlighted. It is the warm welcome given to the guerrilla leaders and heads of the FDR when they arrived in La Palma. Everybody knows that President Duarte had mobilized his supporters and organized motorcades to bring thousands of persons to La Palma to endorse his views. But as we just saw in some television scenes a few moments ago, the participating guerrilla leaders and heads of the FDR had a very important popular reception in front of the La Palma church.

Moreover, this dialogue allowed for the presentation of very concrete demands by the Salvadoran revolutionaries, such as the need for an end to U.S. involvement, the withdrawal of American advisers, the end of U.S. military aid to the Salvadoran Government, the investigation of assassinations, the ending of repression and bombings, the demilitarization of work centers, and the 100 percent increasing of taxes paid by large enterprises that have prospered at the expense of the Salvadoran people.

In other words, discussed at the meeting were not only general views on hopes for peace and understanding, which are of course very important, but also very concrete demands by the revolutionary movement. If the regime is truly sincere in its proposal to start on the path to peace it will have to focus on people's demands which are very important to the Salvadoran people and which are really the ones that will make a change in El Salvador's situation.

[Ramirez] Referring to the demands submitted at the meeting -- a meeting without precedent in 5 years of armed conflict during which the country has suffered so much -- among these demands there is something very important. The main party responsible for the suffering this conflict has caused is doubtlessly the U.S. Government, which has supplied weapons, advisers, training, and millions of dollars in aid to the Salvadoran regime.

However, this continued aid and this training of entire battalions has not been able to halt the armed Salvadoran insurgency. To the contrary, the regime's economic collapse as well as its political decadence are becoming increasingly evident in the face of the advance made by the guerrilla movement which in repeated instances and, above all, since Duarte became president for the second time last June, has proposed holding conversations for negotiated political solutions. Of course, the dialogue has its enemies. They are represented in the so-called hardline of the Armed Forces and also in the death squads, which have made threats. It has been said that the death squads have a concrete sabotage plan for industries and various other places, and then would blame the guerrilla movement for the attacks.

It was also reported that during this first meeting there were civilian commandoes who were infiltrated by the Army to provoke incidents. Therefore, it will not be easy to implement this first step in order to reach definite agreements that may end the conflict in El Salvador.

PRELA Reporter's Commentary

FL162310 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1909 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] A commentary by PRELA reporter Silvio Mendiadua points out that the achievements of the first meeting between the Salvadoran Government and the FSLN-FDR constitute a blow to the ultrarightist bands. He adds that an evaluation of the achievements of the talks yesterday in La Palma allows him to draw that conclusion.

The Salvadoran revolutionaries agreed that dialogue was fruitful and positive and that it is an important step on the road to peace. The commentary adds that with the positive results of the talks, there is the possibility that the Salvadoran people will gain an opportunity in their efforts for dialogue and negotiation. The analysis says [word indistinct] an encouraging outcome.

The commentary states that all points in the communique indicate substantial signs that the negotiations between the Salvadoran Government and the revolutionaries will progress. The commentary says Ferman Cienfuego urged those present at the public ceremony in La Palma to return to their towns and cities and express the need to create in every neighborhood a committee for dialogue, an event that chan change the Salvadoran situation.

Meanwhile President Jose Napoleon Duarte was optimistic about the results of the meeting when he said a dialogue has been established that is destined to achieve peace. The commentary concludes, after evaluating actions by sectors working for peace, that the La Palma agreements seem to have great popular and international support.

Reaction of Residents, Papers

FL170156 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] The dialogue that has begun between the Salvadoran Government and the guerrillas has awakened the interest of citizens of that small Central American country. Citizens consulted by PRELA openly expressed hope that yesterday's meeting between President Jose Napoleon Duarte and the rebel leaders will really help end the war that has shaken that nation for 5 years.

San Salvador's daily newspapers, mostly rightist-slanted, are minimizing the significance of the dialogue and presenting the absence of agreement on the main topic of the war as a failure of the guerrilla-government meeting. However, if anything is certain, it is that Duarte's government has recognized the FMLN and the FDR's military strength as well as the fact that the war will continue because its causes have not yet disappeared. This was demonstrated by the joint communique issued at the end of the meeting which called for humanizing the conflict that has been going on for 5 years and has caused 50,000 deaths.

FDR's Calles Interviewed

FL170042 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] A little over 24 hours after the La Palma meeting, Radio Rebelde correspondent Rafael (Verastegui), somewhere in Central America, asked FDR Vice President Eduardo Calles for an evaluation of the meeting between leftist leaders with Christian Democratic President Jose Napoleon Duarte:

[Begin Calles recording] Now the duality of power is clearly established. When Duarte calls us and is forced to meet us, there is a clear admission of the duality of power in El Salvador. The framework surrounding the arrival of our delegates at the meeting shows the high level of recognition that our front's struggle has achieved on the international scene. [end recording]

CHRISTOPHER GAIRY SAYS GRENADA 'U.S. COLONY'

PA160411 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Oct 84

[Text] The U.S. military occupation of Grenada has made that island into a U.S. colony, Christopher Gairy, who was public health minister during Maurice Bishop's administration, has stated in Helsinki. He said that in Grenada people's rights are brutally trampled and that the standard of living is steadily decreasing, while repression against those who supported Bishop's reforms is increasing. Gairy said that it is impossible to hold free, just elections in Grenada while the country is under foreign military occupation.

BRIEFS

EDUCATION AGREEMENT WITH FINLAND -- The Cuban and Finnish education ministers, Jose Ramon Fernandez and Kaarina Suonio, respectively, have signed in Helsinki a work protocol that includes the exchange of teachers in the fields of linguistics, music, pedagogical research, medicine, and agronomics. As president of the Cuban-Nordic Friendship Association, the Cuban education minister also signed a cooperation agreement between the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples and the Finland-Cuba Friendship Association. [Text] [Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Oct 84 PA]

JAMAICA

SEAGA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC PRESIDENT SIGN ACCORDS

FL161835 Paris AFP in Spanish 1707 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Excerpts] Kingston, Jamaica, 16 Oct (AFP) -- Dominican Republic President Salvador Jorge Blanco and Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga today signed bilateral trade accords worth [words indistinct].

The accords provide for a 60-day period in which each side will draw up a list of exportable products. The Dominican side has already listed some 40 products, including cement, agricultural products, and chemical fertilizers.

The accords signed by the presidents of these two Caribbean nations must be ratified respectively by the Jamaican parliament and the Dominican Congress.

This afternoon Jorge Blanco, his wife, Asela Mera de Jorge, and the delegation which is accompanying him, some 95 persons, will be met at Haiti's Francois Duvalier Airport by this neighboring country's president-for-life. During their short few hours stay, Jorge Blanco and Jean-Claude Duvalier will sign a joint statement which includes trade agreements between the two countries. Before the signing, the Dominican secretaries of state who are accompanying President Jorge Blanco and their Haitian counterparts will hold simultaneous working meetings. President Jorge Blanco will return tonight to Santo Domingo.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

FOREIGN MINISTER CONDEMNS POLICY OF INTERVENTION

FL161735 Bridgetown CANA in English 1730 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] New York, Oct 16, CANA -- Trinidad and Tobago, which opposed the U.S.-led invasion of Grenada, "regards intervention as an affront to independence and sovereignty of the aggrieved state," its foreign minister has said here. Dr Basil Ince told a recent reception for nationals of the twin island state that non-intervention in the internal affairs of other states was one of five central tenets of his country's foreign policy. Such a policy, he said, was necessary for international peace and stability.

The foreign minister said "very often the principle of nonintervention was mistaken or misconstrued for inactivity in the field of international relations." He declared that Port-of-Spain had always been intimately involved in movements to maintain peace, stability, and territorial integrity.

Trinidad and Tobago opposed the use of force as a first option to deal with the political crisis in Grenada where a military regime had taken over last October. Ince told a questioner, who asked about upcoming elections in Grenada, that the George Chambers government hoped for the type of administration in St George's "that would lend a measure of stability to Grenada and to the Caribbean as a whole."

The other four pillars of Trinidad's foreign policy, as cited by the foreign minister, were: peace, disarmament and the peaceful settlement of disputes; racial equality; regional and international cooperation and (when feasible) integration; and fundamental reform of the international economic system to redress disadvantages.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

JORGE EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR CONTADORA DOCUMENT

PA150156 Paris AFP in Spanish 0305 GMT 13 Oct 84

[Excerpts] Santo Domingo, 12 Oct (AFP) -- Dominican President Salvador Jorge Blanco tonight expressed his total support for the Contadora Group's peace and cooperation document, which was presented to him by the foreign ministers of Colombia and Venezuela. After his meeting with the two foreign ministers, the Dominican president said that his government has "thoroughly evaluated" the peace-making effort that the Contadora Group (Colombia, Mexico, Panaman, and Venezuela) has been making.

The Contadora Group envoys met privately for more than 1 hour with President Jorge Blanco to present the document to him so that he can sign the additional protocol, which all the Latin American governments will be asked to consider. This additional protocol establishes the nations' desire to guarantee peace in Central America through mechanisms of multilateral negotiation, with guarantees for human rights and the national efforts in favor of social justice. Dominican Government sources linked to the Foreign Ministry said that it is "certain" that President Jorge Blanco will sign the protocol, after concluding his evaluation of the proposal.

GUYANA

HEAVY OIL POTENTIAL STUDIED BY BRITISH FIRM

FL161636 Bridgetown CANA in English 1624 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Oct 16, CANA -- A study of Guyana's heavy oil potential both offshore and onshore will be undertaken as the second part of a petroleum exploration promotion project, the government said. The project is being financed by a two-million-dollar (U.S.) grant from the World Bank's affiliate for concessionary lending, the International Development Association (IDA), the announcement said. The Ministry of Energy and Mines said it was now working on identifying consultants to carry out the heavy oil potential study.

Exploration Consultants Limited, a British firm, has almost completed the first part of the project which encompasses the compilation and appraisal of all available data on petroleum exploration in Guyana, the formulation of a data base, geological studies, and geophysical data analysis. The British firm signed a contract in April this year to work over an 18-month period on the petroleum exploration project. A ministry spokesman said a preliminary report has already been submitted to the government and a final report is expected within the 18-month period. The project also provides for the training of Guyanese.

VENEZUELA

NEW NATURAL RESOURCES MINISTER APPOINTED

PA130337 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2319 GMT 12 Oct 84

[Text] Caracas, 12 Oct (LATIN-REUTER) -- Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi today appointed Juan Francisco Otaola as environment and natural renewable resources minister, replacing Orlando Castejon, who resigned last week. Castejon resigned after several charges were presented regarding irregularities in the granting of bids for exploitation of forests, which also provoked the dismissal of three ministerial officials on 27 September. This is Lusinchi's first cabinet change since his inauguration on 2 Feburary.